



Engraved by Thos. F. Hudson.

ESKIMAUX CHILDREN DANCING.

Published Sept. 1828 by John Murray, London.

Drawn by Capt. Spence.

THREE VOYAGES

FOR THE

DISCOVERY OF A NORTH-WEST PASSAGE

FROM THE

ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC,

AND NARRATIVE OF

AN ATTEMPT TO REACH THE
NORTH POLE.

BY

SIR W. E. PARRY, CAPT., R.N., F.R.S.

FIVE VOLUMES. WITH PLATES.

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SECOND VOYAGE

FOR THE DISCOVERY OF A

NORTH-WEST PASSAGE.

CHAPTER VII.

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THE first day of the new year was a very severe one in the open air, the thermometer being down to -22° , and the wind blowing strong from the north-west. The effect of

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a breeze upon the feelings is well known to every person, even in comparatively temperate climates, but at low temperatures it becomes painful and almost insupportable. Thus, with the thermometer at -55° , and no wind stirring, the hands may remain uncovered for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour without inconvenience; while, with a fresh breeze, and the thermometer nearly as high as *zero*, few people can keep them exposed so long without considerable pain. A high wind also had great effect in occasioning a general decrease of temperature in most parts of the ships, not by its gaining admission into the inhabited apartments, but by favouring the rapid abstraction of heat from without.

About noon on the 2d, Captain Lyon observed a considerable body of snow taken up by the wind and whirled round in a spiral form like that of a water-spout, though with us the breeze was quite light at the time. It increased gradually in size till lost behind the south-east point. As a proof of the difficulty which the hares must find in

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obtaining subsistence during the winter, these animals were at this time in the habit of coming alongside the ships upon the ice to pick up what they could from our rubbish heaps. A fox or two still entered the traps occasionally, and our gentlemen informed me that they had always been most successful in catching them after a southerly wind, which they attributed with great probability to the smell of the ships being thus more extensively communicated over the island. One or two of these poor creatures had been found in the traps with their tongues almost bitten in two. The traps made use of for catching these beautiful little animals were formed of a small cask, having a sliding door, like that of a common mouse-trap, and were baited with oiled meat or blubber. The whole number caught during the winter was between eighty and ninety, of which more than seventy were taken before the end of December. In a single trap of Captain Lyon's, no less than fifteen were caught in the course of four hours, on the night of the 25th of November; and

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the people engaged in watching the trap remarked that no sooner had one of these animals been taken out, and they themselves retired a few yards, than another entered it. So stupid, indeed, are they in this respect that, in several instances, those which had escaped from the ships entered, and were recaptured in the same traps as before.

Jan. 14.—An ermine, of which the tracks had been traced the preceding day up the Hecla's stern, and even on board her, Captain Lyon to-day succeeded in catching in a trap. This beautiful creature was entirely white, except a black brush to its tail, and a slight tinge of the usual sulphur or straw colour on the root of the tail, and also on the fore part of the fore legs. The little animal being put into a convenient cage seemed soon to feel himself perfectly at home, eating, drinking, and sleeping, without any apparent apprehension, but evincing a very decided determination to resent a too near approach to the wires of his new habitation.

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Jan 18.—At a late hour this evening the stove-pipe of my cabin caught fire, which gave us cause for a momentary alarm, but buckets and water being at hand, it was soon extinguished. This accident was occasioned by a quantity of soot collected in the stove-pipe, and yet was not altogether to be attributed to neglect in the persons appointed to sweep the whole of them twice a week. As the cause of it is such as is not likely to be anticipated by persons living in temperate climates, and as the knowledge of it may be serviceable to somebody destined for a cold one, I shall here explain it. The smoke of coals contains a certain quantity of water in the state of vapour. This, in temperate climates, and, indeed, till the thermometer falls to about 10° below zero, is carried up the chimney and principally diffused in the atmosphere. When the cold becomes more intense, however, this is no longer the case; for the vapour is then condensed into water before it can escape from the stove-pipes, within which a mass of ice is, in consequence, very speedily

formed*. The vapour thus arrested must necessarily also detain a quantity of soot, which being subsequently enclosed in the ice as the latter accumulates, the brush generally used to clean the pipes cannot bring it away. By any occasional increase of temperature, either in the external air or in the fire below, the ice sometimes thaws, pouring down a stream of water into the fire and bringing with it a most pungent and oppressive smell of soot. For these reasons, as well as to avoid accidents of the nature above alluded to, it is necessary to sweep the pipes much more frequently than in warmer climates, and even occasionally to thaw the ice out of them by a fire made expressly for the purpose.

Mr. Pulfer, the carpenter of the Hecla, in taking a walk round the S.E. point, on the 27th, was somewhat startled at suddenly

* When the weather was not very severely cold, and a part of the vapour escaped from the pipe of the galley-fire, the fore-rigging was always coated with ice, from the smoke passing by it.

observing a large bear at no great distance from him, and prudently retreated to the ships before Bruin saw him. It is commonly believed by the Greenland sailors, who have certainly the best opportunities of judging, that these animals are not generally disposed to retreat from one man, though they invariably fly from a party.

On the morning of the 1st of February it was reported to me that a number of strange people were seen to the westward, coming towards the ships over the ice. On directing a glass towards them we found them to be Esquimaux, and also discovered some appearance of huts on shore, at the distance of two miles from the ships, in the same direction. I immediately set out, accompanied by Captain Lyon, an officer from each ship, and two of the men, to meet the natives, who, to the number of five-and-twenty, were drawn up in a line abreast, and still advanced slowly towards us. As we approached nearer they stood still, remaining as before in a compact line, from which they did not move for some time after

we reached them. Nothing could exceed their quiet and orderly behaviour on this occasion, which presented a very striking contrast with the noisy demeanour of the natives of Hudson's Strait. They appeared at a distance to have arms in their hands, but what we had taken for bows or spears proved to be only a few blades of whale-bone which they had brought, either as a peace-offering, or for barter, and which we immediately purchased for a few small nails and beads. Some of the women, of whom there were three or four, as well as two children, in this party, having handsome clothes on which attracted our attention, they began to our utter astonishment and consternation to strip, though the thermometer stood at 23° below zero. We soon found, however, that there was nothing so dreadful in this as we at first imagined, every individual among them having on a complete double suit. The whole were of deer-skin, and looked both clean and comfortable.

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awaited our approach, and still continued to conduct themselves, there was as little apprehension or distrust visible in their countenances or manner as it was possible for one strange set of persons to evince on meeting another. As soon, therefore, as we had bought all that they had to sell, and made them a number of valuable presents, we expressed by signs our wish to accompany them to their huts, with which they willingly complied, and we immediately set out together. On our way the Esquimaux were much amused by our dogs, especially by a large one of the Newfoundland breed, that had been taught to fetch and carry,—a qualification which seemed to excite unbounded astonishment; and the children could scarce contain themselves for joy, when Captain Lyon gave them a stick to throw for the dog to bring back to them. A child of five or six years old, thus amusing itself, on such a day and in such a climate, formed by no means the least characteristic figure of our motley group. An old and infirm man, supported by a stick, which,

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indeed, he much needed, was soon left behind us, his companions seeming to take no notice of his infirmities, and leaving him without reluctance or apology to find his way home at his own pace. When we had approached the huts within a few hundred yards, three of the Esquimaux went on before us, having previously explained that they were going to confine their dogs, lest being frightened at our coming they should run away.

When it is remembered that these habitations were fully within sight of the ships, and how many eyes were continually on the look out among us for anything that could afford variety or interest in our present situation, our surprise may in some degree be imagined at finding an establishment of five huts, with canoes, sledges, dogs, and above sixty men, women, and children, as regularly and, to all appearance, as permanently fixed, as if they had occupied the same spot for the whole winter. If the first view of the exterior of this little village was such as to create astonishment, that feeling

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was in no small degree heightened, on accepting the invitation soon given us, to enter these extraordinary houses, in the construction of which we observed that not a single material was used but snow and ice. After creeping through two low passages, having each its arched door-way, we came to a small circular apartment, of which the roof was a perfect arched dome. From this three door-ways, also arched and of larger dimensions than the outer ones, led into as many inhabited apartments, one on each side, and the other facing us as we entered. The interior of these presented a scene no less novel than interesting. The women were seated on the beds at the sides of the huts, each having her little fire-place or lamp, with all her domestic utensils about her; the children crept behind their mothers, and the dogs, except the female ones, which were indulged with a part of the beds, slunk out past us in dismay. The construction of this inhabited part of the huts was similar to that of the outer apartment, being a dome formed by separate

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blocks of snow, laid with great regularity and no small art, each being cut into the shape requisite to form a substantial arch, from seven to eight feet high in the centre, and having no support whatever but what this principle of building supplied. I shall not here further describe the peculiarities of these curious edifices, remarking only that a cheerful and sufficient light was admitted to them by a circular window of ice neatly fitted into the roof of each apartment.

We found our new acquaintance as desirous of pleasing us, as we were ready to be pleased; so that we were soon on good terms with them all. While we were engaged in examining every part of their huts, their whole behaviour was in the highest degree orderly, respectful, and good-humoured. They eagerly received the various articles that were given them, either in exchange for their own commodities, or as presents, but on no occasion importuned us for anything, nor did the well-known sound of 'pilletay' once escape from them. We

had also great reason to believe that these people possessed, in no ordinary degree, the quality of honesty, a quality the more desirable to us, as we had on shore, besides the house and observatory, all our boats and other articles, which, had they been disposed to pilfer, it would have required all our vigilance to guard. If we dropped a glove or a handkerchief without knowing it, they would immediately direct our attention to it by pointing; and if the owner had left the hut before they discovered it, would run out after him to return it. Numberless instances of a similar kind occurred in the course of our subsequent communication with them, some of which I shall hereafter have an opportunity of relating.

After remaining with them a couple of hours, and proposing to spend the following day amongst them, we set out on our return to the ships. Being desirous of trying their disposition to part with their children, I proposed to buy a fine lad, named *Toolloak*, for the very valuable consideration of a handsome butcher's knife. His father, ap-

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parently understanding our meaning, joyfully accepted the knife, and the boy ran into the hut to fetch his mittens, which seemed to be all that he cared for in leaving his home. He then set off with us, in high spirits, and at first assisted in drawing a sledge we had purchased to carry our things; but as he began, by our additional signs, more clearly to comprehend our true meaning, he gradually relaxed in his zeal to accompany our party, and being afterwards overtaken by a number of his companions, he took an opportunity to slink off among some hummocks of ice, so that when we arrived on board Toolooak was missing.

On our reaching the ships, these people expressed much less surprise and curiosity than might naturally have been expected on their first visit, which may, perhaps, in some measure be attributed to their being in reality a less noisy kind of people than most of the Esquimaux to whom we had before been accustomed. Quiet and orderly, however, as they were disposed to be, this first visit shewed them to be as fond of merri-

ment as their countrymen are usually considered; for, on Captain Lyon's ordering his fiddler up on the Hecla's deck, they danced with the men for an hour, and then returned in high glee and good humour to their huts.

On our return on board, we were informed that during our absence in the morning, a flock of thirteen wolves, the first yet seen, crossed the ice in the bay from the direction of the huts, and passed near the ships. These animals, as we afterwards learned, had accompanied or closely followed the Esquimaux on their journey to the island the preceding day; and they proved to us the most troublesome part of their *suite*. They so much resemble the Esquimaux dogs, that, had it not been for some doubt among the officers who had seen them, whether they were so or not, and the consequent fear of doing these poor people an irreparable injury, we might have killed most of them the same evening, for they came boldly to look for food within a few yards of the Fury, and remained there for some time.

In order to prevent our people from oc-

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casioning the Equimaux any disturbance or apprehension, I directed that only six from each ship should be allowed to visit the huts at one time, and that they should then be always accompanied by an officer. A strict prohibition was, at the same time, issued against the smallest article of the ships' stores being given to the people, without permission, on pain of severe punishment.

At an early hour on the 2d, we set out with a large party on our proposed excursion to the huts. The natives received us with great cordiality, though with somewhat more noisy expressions of pleasure than before; and we soon began a more minute examination of their habitations and furniture, in which they readily assisted us, except that they always sat very closely on the deer-skins which composed their beds, under which were stowed such articles as they were least willing or able to dispose of. They sold, however, a great number of their things without reluctance; and it was, indeed, astonishing, to see with what eagerness they would, for the mere sake of

change and variety, barter some of their most indispensable articles for the veriest trifles in our possession. For instance, a single sewing needle, of which they possessed abundance not much inferior to our own, procured from them a large well-sharpened *pānna*, or man's knife, made of stout iron, for which, in point of absolute utility, a hundred needles would not have been a fair equivalent. Various other instances of the same kind occurred, by which indeed they were not ultimately losers, though they certainly would have been so, had our intercourse ended here.

We dined in the huts, and the Esquimaux gladly partook of our biscuit and meat, and even of a little wine, which, however, they did not relish. We returned on board about sunset, much gratified with the interesting day we had passed; having laid the foundation of that perfect confidence and good understanding which, with little or no interruption, afterwards subsisted between us and our new acquaintance.

On the morning of the 3d, a number of

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these people were observed to set off over the ice to the south-west, to bring, as we conjectured, either some more of their people or of their property from their last place of abode. On walking out to the huts after divine service, however, we found they had been seal-catching, and had succeeded in taking four. The very small quantity of food which they had in their huts at first coming, consisting of a little venison, and the flesh and blubber of the whale and seal, induced us to suppose they had left some of their provision behind, and that they would return for it as occasion demanded. But we now found that, even at this rigorous season, they were entirely dependent in this way on their daily exertions, and that they had only removed into their present quarters on account of the failure of their summer's store, and of the greater facility of obtaining seals at Winter Island than where the sea was more closely and continually frozen.

On the 4th a number of Esquimaux came to the ships, and we took the opportunity of

getting them to go through the process of building a snow hut, for our amusement and information. From the quickness with which they completed this, our surprise at the sudden appearance of their village ceased; as we now saw that two or three hours would be more than sufficient to have completed the whole establishment just as we at first found it. They were then taken on board, and derived great amusement from our organ, and from anything in the shape of music, singing, or dancing, of all which they are remarkably fond. Nor can I here omit a striking instance of the honesty of these people which occurred to-day. Some of the gentlemen of the *Hecla* had purchased two of their dogs, which had the preceding evening made their escape and returned to the huts. After the departure of the *Esquimaux* to-day, we were surprised to find that they had left two dogs carefully tied up on board the *Fury*, which, on enquiry, proved to be the animals in question, and which had been thus faithfully restored to their rightful owners.

On the 5th, a number of the natives came on board, according to promise, to rebuild the hut in a more substantial manner, and to put a plate of ice into the roof, as a window, which they did with great quickness as well as care, several of the women cheerfully assisting in the labour. The men seemed to take no small pride in shewing in how expeditious and workman-like a manner they could perform this; and the hut, with its outer passage, was soon completed. From this time they were in the constant habit of coming freely to the ships, and such as it was not always convenient to admit, usually found very profitable employment in examining the heaps of ashes, sand, and other rubbish on the outside, where their trouble was well repaid by picking up small scraps of tin or iron. All that they found in this manner we allowed them to consider their lawful property; but were very particular in preventing their handling anything on board without permission.

The wolves had now begun to do us some

damage, for not even the sails that were fastened round the house and observatory could escape their ravenous fangs, and they had thus in the course of a single night much injured two of our studding-sails. We set traps for them on the ice, and also large shark-hooks secured with chains and baited with meat; but the former they entered and destroyed, and the latter were always found broken or bent, without securing the depredators. These animals were indeed so hungry and fearless as to take away some of the Esquimaux dogs in a snow-house near the Hecla's stern, though the men were at the time within a few yards of them.

From the circumstance of Captain Lyon and myself having accidentally gone into different huts on our first visits to the village, (for with this name I believe we must venture to dignify the united abodes of more than sixty human beings,) particular individuals among the Esquimaux had already in a manner attached themselves to each of us. Captain Lyon now informed

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me that one of his acquaintance, a remarkably fine and intelligent young man named *Āyōkēt*, had given him to understand that he had somewhere or other seen *Kabloona** people like ourselves only a few months ago. This being the case, there seemed no reason why, if it were made worth his while, he should not be able to see them again in the course of next summer. Anxious to profit by this unexpected mode of communication, I requested Captain Lyon to endeavour to direct *Ayoket's* attention to the scheme of conveying a letter from us to the persons of whom he spoke.

On the 7th I paid another visit to the huts, where I found scarcely any body but women and children, the whole of the men, with the exception of the two oldest, having gone on a sealing excursion to the north-eastern side of the island. One of the women named *Iīgiuk*, a sister of the lad *Toolooak*, who favoured us with a song,

* European.

struck us as having a remarkably soft voice, an excellent ear, and a great fondness for singing, for there was scarcely any stopping her when she had once begun. We had, on their first visit to the ships, remarked this trait in Iligliuk's disposition, when she was listening for the first time to the sound of the organ, of which she seemed never to have enough; and almost every day she now began to display some symptom of that superiority of understanding for which she was so remarkably distinguished. A few of the women learned several of our names to-day, and I believe all thought us Angekoks* of a very superior class, when we repeated to them all round, by the assistance of our books, the names of all their husbands obtained on board the preceding day. On our way back to the ships we saw a party of them, with their dogs, returning over the hill from the north-eastward; and we afterwards met another of eight or ten

* Sorcerers, or wizards, pronounced as written above in Greenland; but at Winter Island *Ang-ët-köök*; and by the people at Igloolik *An-nät-kö*.

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who had walked round by the south-east point on the ice, all alike unsuccessful, after being out in the wind for six hours with the thermometer from 18 to 22 degrees below zero. Thus hardly did these people obtain their daily subsistence at this severe season of the year.

A wolf being caught in one of the traps this evening, which was so close as to be easily watched from the ship, a party of the officers ran out to secure the depredator, and fired two balls into the trap at once to despatch him. Finding after this that he continued to bite a sword that was thrust in, a third shot was fired at him. The trap was then sufficiently opened to get his hind legs firmly tied together, after which being considered tolerably secure he was pulled out of the trap, which, however, his head had scarcely cleared when he furiously flew at Mr. Richards's throat, and would certainly have done him some serious mischief had not that gentleman, with great presence of mind, seized the animal in his turn by the throat, squeezing him with all his force

between both hands. This made the wolf relinquish his first attempt, and Mr. Richards only suffered by a bite in his arm and another in his knee, which, on account of the thickness of his clothes, were happily not severe ones. As for the wolf he prudently took to his heels, though two of them were still tied together, and being favoured by the momentary confusion occasioned by his late *rencontre* with Mr. Richards succeeded in escaping his pursuers. He was found dead the following day at the distance of three quarters of a mile from the ships.

On the 8th we were visited by a musical party of females, consisting only of a few individuals expressly invited for this purpose. A number of the officers assembled in the cabin to hear this vocal concert, while Mr. Henderson and myself took down the notes of their songs, for which indeed they gave us every opportunity, for I thought they would never leave off. We afterwards amused them with our little band of flutes and violins, and also by some songs, with

the whole of which they were extremely well pleased. I feared several of them, and especially Iligliuk, would have gone into fits with delight when we introduced into our song some of their names mingled with our own. While most of us were thus employed, Captain Lyon took the opportunity of making drawings of some of the women, especially of *Togolat*, the prettiest of the party, and perhaps of the whole village. She was about six-and-twenty years of age, with a face more oval than that of Esquimaux in general, very pretty eyes and mouth, teeth remarkably white and regular, and possessing in her carriage and manners a degree of natural gracefulness, which could not be hid even under the disguise of an Esquimaux woman's dress, and, as was usual with *Togolat*, the dirtiest face of her whole tribe. Her husband, *Ewerat*, a little ugly man of about five-and-forty, was the only individual among them laying claim to the title of *Angetkook*, and was in reality a sensible obliging man, and a first-rate seal-catcher. They had two children, one of which, a

little girl, Togolat still occasionally suckled, and, according to custom, carried in the hood behind her back; the other, a boy about eight years of age, quite an idiot, deaf and dumb from his birth, and squinting most horribly with both eyes.

Finding that these poor creatures were now really in want of food, for the men had again returned from an unsuccessful excursion, I was happy to avail myself of a hint given to me by Captain Lyon, to furnish them occasionally with a small supply of bread-dust, of which we had two or three casks in each ship. Our present party was therefore, in addition to other articles, supplied with several pounds, which they immediately expressed their intention to take home to their children. Several of them visited the ships as usual on the 9th, and among the rest Ka-oong-ut and his son Toolooak. The old gentleman was not a favourite with us, being the only one who had yet begun to tease us by constant begging. We had often expressed displeasure at this habit, which after a day or two's

acquaintance began to be extremely troublesome; but I had to day to take cognizance of his stealing a nail, of which, though not a very serious offence, I determined to take rather a serious notice, as it might otherwise lead to more extensive theft. I therefore collected all the other Esquimaux who were on board, and having in their presence expressed great indignation at this conduct, turned the offender away in disgrace. Some of those best acquainted with us were afterwards taken into the cabin, where our sentiments were more fully explained to them. Among these I was not sorry to have Toolooak and Iligliuk, who would not fail to report at the huts all our proceedings, but who did not appear to consider themselves in the slightest degree implicated in their father's offence, or concerned in his disgrace. The people of the huts being much in want of food, we again distributed some bread-dust among them, taking care to send a portion to the infirm old man, *Hik-kěi-ěrá*, by *Okótook*, the husband of Iligliuk, a fine active manly

fellow of about two-and-thirty, who, as we were pleased to find the next day, had punctually executed his commission.

On the 10th, the mercury in the barometer, which had been gradually but very slowly falling for several days preceding, had got down to 28.78. inches, which is here remarkably low. It continued so with very little variation for sixteen hours, and then rose much more quickly. The wind had during this interval remained constantly from the northward and westward, and generally moderate, with now and then some snow falling, but we could perceive nothing in the weather that seemed to coincide with this unusual indication in the barometer.

The Esquimaux went out to endeavour to catch seals as usual, but returned unsuccessful after several hours' labour. As it was now evident that their own exertions were not at all times sufficient to procure them food at this season, and that neither indolence nor any idea of dependence on our charity induced them to relax in those exertions, it became incumbent on us care-

fully to attend to their wants, and by a timely and judicious application of the slender recourses we had set aside for their use, to prevent any absolute suffering among them. We therefore sent out a good meal of bread-dust for each individual, to be divided in due proportion among all the huts. The necessity of this supply appeared very strongly from the report of our people, who found some of these poor creatures actually gnawing a piece of hard seal-skin with the hair on it, while few of the huts had any lamp alight. It must be remembered that the failure of their seal-fishery always involves a double calamity, for it not only deprives them of food but of fuel for their lamps. When this is the case, not to mention the want of warmth and light in the huts, they are also destitute of the means of melting snow for water, and can therefore only quench their thirst by eating the snow, which is not only a comfortless but an ineffectual resource. In consequence of this, it was surprising to see the quantity of water these people

drank whenever they came on board; and it was often with difficulty that our coppers could answer this additional demand. I am certain that Toolooak one day drank nearly a gallon in less than two hours.— Besides the bread-dust, we also supplied them to-day with a wolf's carcass, which, raw and frozen as it was, they eat with a good appetite; and indeed they had not the means of cooking or even thawing it. I cannot here omit a pleasing trait in their character, observed by our people who carried out their supplies; not a morsel of which would the grown-up people touch till they had first supplied the wants of their hungry little ones.

On the 11th, the weather was severely cold, the wind blowing fresh from the north-west, with the thermometer from -26° to -30° . Notwithstanding the severity of the day, a few of the Esquimaux came on board, and among the rest, *Siōkobeut*, who, on account of being the tallest and stoutest man of the tribe, had been distinguished by our people with the name of 'the Corn-

modore.' He brought with him his son *Tōōnĕk*, a boy five or six years of age, who became a great favourite with us, and whose clean deer-skin clothes and ruddy face now gave him a very pretty and interesting appearance.

About this time we were grieved to find that our invalid, Reid, was once more attacked by his complaint, rendering such repeated bleedings necessary as to reduce him very low, and to convince Mr. Edwards that his lungs were not in a state to bear his returning strength. As if some fatality attended our carpenters, Mr. Fiddis had also, for some time past, been occasionally complaining of weakness, trembling, and sickness; but, except these two, we had not, for several weeks, had an individual on the sick-list.

On the morning of the 12th, Okotook and his uncle *Arnaneelia*, a sensible and worthy man about five-and-forty years of age, coming on board from their fishing, we showed them the stage and scenery that were just put up, and invited them and

their wives to the play about to be performed this evening. They accordingly went back and brought the women, who understood they were to be present at some diversion, though they did not well know what. It was enough, however, with Iligliuk just to make the motion of turning the handle of the organ, which conveying to her mind the idea of music and merriment, was always sure to put her immediately into high spirits. As they came three or four hours before the performance of 'John Bull' was to commence, they began to grow tired and impatient, especially when it became dusk, and candles were brought into the cabin. The men then explained that it would soon be dark, and, that, in returning late to their huts, they should disturb the people who would then be fast asleep there. Finding that they grew uneasy, I made no objection to their returning, and sent them off loaded with bread-dust and some oil for each of their lamps. They remained long enough, however, to have a peep at *Mrs. Brulgruddery*, whose dress, when

they were informed it was that of a *kablōna noollē-ō*, (European wife,) they were very anxious in examining, and seemed to grieve at going away without witnessing the diversion which this and other preparations seemed to promise.

On the 13th, our friends at the huts were fortunate in procuring three seals, an event that created great joy at the village. Mr. Allison, who happened to be there when one of these prizes was announced, informed me that there was a general outcry of joy; all the women hurried to the doors of the huts, and the children rushed to the beach to meet the men dragging along the prize. One of these little urchins, to complete the triumphant exultation with which this event was hailed, instantly threw himself on the animal, and clinging fast to it, was thus dragged to the huts. Each woman was observed to bring her *ōōtkōosēek* or cooking-pot, to the hut where the seal was dissected, for the purpose of receiving a share of the meat and blubber.

Some light snow fell in the afternoon,

though the day was otherwise clear. A thermometer exposed to the sun's rays * at noon stood at -9° , that in the shade being 10° lower than this. The snow was melting on the black paint-work and in other situations equally favourable. Another wolf, being the third, was entrapped this evening, and Mr. Skeoch undertook to make a skeleton of it for preservation as a specimen of these animals.

On the 15th it blew a strong gale from S.W. to W.N.W., and the thermometer, either on account of the strength of the wind or its having occasionally some south-

* It is here necessary to explain that the 'temperatures in the sun' registered in this Journal, were taken by a thermometer suspended on the south side of an unpainted upright post, at the distance of one hundred yards from the ship; those 'in the shade' by a corresponding thermometer on its north side. This explanation is necessary, because, in certain situations, such as under the lee of the house, or the ships' sterns, where much heat was radiated, the snow was frequently melting, when in places not thus favourably situated the sun produced no such effect.

ing in it, rose to -4° , being the highest temperature registered in our journals since the 27th of December preceding. I had agreed with Okotook to accompany him on a sealing excursion, but the day proved too inclement, the Esquimaux not going out themselves, though it was not very often that the weather could prevent them. Considering it desirable to increase by all the means in our power the chances of these people giving information of us, we distributed among several of the men large round medallions of sheet copper, having these words punched through them:—‘H. B. M. S. Fury and Hecla, All well, A.D. 1822.’ These we suspended by a piece of white line round their necks, giving them to understand that they were to shew them to any Kabloona people they might ever meet with in future. Similar ornaments, but of a smaller size, were subsequently presented to many of the women, having on them the words, ‘Fury and Hecla, 1822.’

Early on the morning of the 16th, observing a party of the Esquimaux equipped

with spears passing near the ships, I joined them, accompanied by Mr. Bushnan and one or two others. Having crossed the point of the island, they walked over the ice to the eastward, where we did not overtake them till they had got above a mile and a quarter from the shore. This party consisted of eight persons, among whom we were glad to find Arnaneelia, Okotook, Toolooak, *Pootooalook* his elder brother, and one or two others whom we knew. They had by this time, however, separated into two or three different parties, stationed at the distance of half a mile from each other, along the edge of the floe, beyond which to the eastward there was clear water as far as we could see for frost-smoke.

The party we at first joined were seated on a high hummock of ice, with their spears in their hands, looking out for seals. After we had talked to them for a few minutes, Okotook suddenly started up and set off along the edge of the ice, without giving us or his companions the least warning. The latter seemed so much accustomed to this,

that they took no further notice than by immediately following him, and we did the same; the whole party walking at a very quick rate, and the natives keeping their heads constantly turned towards the sea to look out for seals. After being thus engaged for an hour and a half, we judged, from the motions of a party at some distance beyond us, that they had game in view. As we approached them, Okotook evidently began to be apprehensive that we, who did not understand the matter, would spoil their sport. To prevent this, he did the most civil thing that could well have been devised, which was, to send his companions one by one to the spot, and to remain with us himself, keeping us at such a distance as to allow us to see their proceedings, without alarming the animal they were in pursuit of. The other seven Esquimaux, now forming one party, disposed themselves into a single line, so as to make as small an appearance as possible in the direction in which they were going, and in this manner crept very cautiously towards

the margin of the floe. On a sudden, they all stooped down quite low, to hide themselves, and continued thus a quarter of an hour, during which time they prepared their lines and spears; and then, when the animal appeared to be intercepted from their view, again took the opportunity of gaining a few paces upon him in the same cautious manner as before. When they had been thus occupied for a full hour, alternately creeping and stooping down, the seal which had been lying on the ice took the water, and they then gave up their chase. During this time, Okotook could scarcely restrain his impatience to be nearer the scene of action; and when we produced a spy-glass, which appeared to bring his companions close to us, he had not words to express his surprise and satisfaction. In a short time he held it as steadily as we did, and explained by signs every motion he observed.

As soon as they had given up the seal they had been watching, the whole party seemed with one accord to turn their steps homeward, in which direction, being that

of the ships also, we were by this time not sorry to accompany them. We were now between three and four miles north-east of the ships, and full a mile and a half from any part of the shore. In the open water beyond the floe, the tide was running two knots to the northward, and as the ice on which we stood had been formed only within the last fortnight, and a sheet as substantial as this had before been carried away by the stream, it was impossible not to feel some apprehension lest we might thus be detached from the shore, an accident that has been known to happen to Esquimaux ere now*, and has probably more frequently befallen them, when none have survived to tell the tale.

As we returned towards the land, we came to a small rising on the level surface of the floe not larger than a common mole-hill, and of much the same shape, at which one of the Esquimaux immediately stopped. His companions, still walking on, called us

* Crantz. London Edition, 1820, Appendix, p. 310.

away, explaining that what we saw was the work of a seal, and that it was probable the animal was about to complete his hole and to come up on the ice, in which case the man would endeavour to kill him. We watched the man at the hole, however, with a glass, for more than half an hour, observing him constantly putting his head down towards the ice, as if in the act of listening for the seal, but without otherwise changing his position; after which, he followed us on board without success.

If, however, a man has any reason to suppose that a seal is at work beneath, he immediately attaches himself to the place, and seldom leaves it till he has succeeded in killing the animal. For this purpose, he first builds a snow-wall about four feet in height, to shelter him from the wind, and, seating himself under the lee of it, deposits his spear, lines, and other implements upon several little forked sticks inserted into the snow, in order to prevent the smallest noise being made in moving them when wanted. But the most curious precaution to the same

effect consists in tying his own knees together with a thong, so securely as to prevent any rustling of his clothes which might otherwise alarm the animal. In this situation, a man will sit quietly sometimes for hours together, attentively listening to any noise made by the seal, and sometimes using the *keip-kuttuk*, an instrument hereafter described, in order to ascertain whether the animal is still at work below. When he supposes the hole to be nearly completed, he cautiously lifts his spear, to which the line has been previously attached, and as soon as the blowing of the seal is distinctly heard, and the ice consequently very thin, he drives it into him with the force of both arms, and then cuts away with his *panna* the remaining crust of ice, to enable him to repeat the wounds and get him out. The *neitiek* is the only seal killed in this manner, and being the smallest, is held while struggling, either simply by hand, or by putting the line round a spear with the point stuck into the ice. For the *oguke*, the line is passed round the man's

leg or arm; and for a walrus, round his body, his feet being at the same time firmly set against a hummock of ice, in which position these people can from habit hold against a very heavy strain. Boys of fourteen or fifteen years of age consider themselves equal to the killing of a *neitiek*, but it requires a full-grown person to master either of the larger animals.

On the 17th, a number of the Esquimaux coming before the church service, we gave them to understand, by the sun, that none could be admitted before noon, when they quietly remained outside the ships till divine service had been performed. We then endeavoured to explain to Iligliuk that every seventh day they must not come to the ships, for, without any intention of offending, they had become rather an annoyance in this way. They now brought with them a great many little canoes and paddles, sledges, figures of men and women, and other toys, most of them already bespoke by the officers and men, and the rest for sale.

There was to-day a great deal of open water to the southward, and it had once more approached us within half a mile, the ice at the mouth of the bay having broken off and drifted away. Mr. Crozier, who visited the huts, found that the Esquimaux, as well as ourselves, had been induced to attempt the destruction of their followers, the wolves, by setting a trap for them, not unlike ours, except in the materials, which consisted only of their staple commodity, ice. They had, indeed, great occasion to employ some such means to destroy these rapacious animals, which had already carried off one or two of their dogs, and threatened nightly to repeat this outrage.

Toolooak, who now considered himself as quite privileged to find his way into the cabin without a conductor, and was not backward in thus practising his newly-acquired art of opening and shutting the door, sat with me for a couple of hours on the 18th, quietly drawing faces and animals, an occupation to which he took a great fancy; and we often were reminded, by this

circumstance, of a similar propensity displayed by his amiable countryman, our lamented friend John Sackhouse. We soon found that Toolooak possessed a capacity equal to any thing he chose to take an interest in learning ; and could he, at his present age, have been voluntarily removed from his companions, and his attention directed to the acquirement of higher branches of knowledge than that of catching seals, he would amply have repaid any pains bestowed upon his education. I had always entertained great objection to taking any such individual from his home, on the doubtful chance of benefiting himself, or of his doing any service to the public as an interpreter. My scruples on this head had hitherto been confined to the consideration due to the individual himself, and to the relatives he leaves behind. In our present case, however, not the smallest public advantage could be derived from it ; for it had long ago become evident that we should soon know more of the Esquimaux language than any of them were likely to learn of

English in any reasonable period of time. I was therefore far from desiring to receive from Toolooak an answer in the affirmative, when I to day plainly put the question to him, whether he would go with me to *kab-laona noona* (European country). Never was a more decisive negative given than Toolooak gave to this proposal. He eagerly repeated the word *Na-o* (No) half a dozen times, and then told me that if he went away his father would cry. This simple, but irresistible appeal to paternal affection, his decisive manner of making it, and the feelings by which his reply was evidently dictated, were just what could have been wished. No more could be necessary to convince those who witnessed it, that these people may justly lay equal claim with ourselves to these common feelings of our nature; and, having once satisfied myself of this, I determined never again to excite in Toolooak's mind another disagreeable sensation, by talking to him on this subject.

Besides the toys and models I have men-

tioned above, as articles of barter with these people, we also employed them more usefully in making wooden shades for the eyes, after their own method, as the time was fast approaching when some such precaution would become necessary to guard the eyes from the excessive glare of reflected light. There was also a considerable *trade* established in mittens, which being made of prepared seal-skin, and nearly water-tight, were particularly serviceable to our men when constantly handling the lead-lines in the summer. In this manner we contrived to turn our new acquaintance to some little account.

Among the natives who visited the Fury to-day was Ewerat, of whom I have already spoken as *Ang-et-kook*, or chief-sorcerer of the tribe, a distinction with which he had made some of our gentlemen acquainted at one of their earliest visits to the huts. Being desirous of seeing him perform some of the tricks, which had acquired for him this pre-eminence, I requested him to indulge me with a sight of them. After some little de-

mur, he began to make his lips quiver, then moved his nose up and down, gradually closed his eyes, and increased the violence of his grimaces till every feature was hideously distorted; at the same time, he moved his head rapidly from side to side, uttering sometimes a snuffling sound, and at others a raving sort of cry. Having worked himself into this ridiculous kind of frenzy, which lasted perhaps from twenty to thirty seconds, he suddenly discontinued it, and suffered his features to relax into their natural form; but the motion of his head seemed to have so stupified him, as indeed it well might, that there remained an unusual vacancy and a drowsy stare upon his countenance for some time afterwards. Being pressed to repeat this piece of buffoonery, he did so two or three times; and on one occasion Togolat asked him, in a serious tone, some questions respecting me, which he as seriously answered. In general, however, the women paid little attention to his grimaces, and the whole ended with a hearty laugh from all parties.

I had, to-day, some conversation with a woman named Appokiuk, whom Iligliuk had mentioned as having seen Kabloona people before us. This woman was gifted, however, with such a volubility of tongue, that speaking, as she did, in a language very imperfectly known to us, she gave no time for questions, and therefore afforded little information. All we could make out for certain was, that she had, within a year past, seen two *Kabloona Oomiak*, (whether ships or boats was still doubtful *), and that her husband was now far away. From all this we concluded that she had been far enough to the southward to see the Hudson's Bay ships in the course of their annual voyage; and this account gave us very sanguine hopes of being thus able to communicate with them by means of some of the Esquimaux.

On the 20th a number of our new friends having been allowed upon the upper deck,

* These people apply the word *oomiak* to any vessel larger than a canoe.

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an old woman, named *Ayūg-gă-loók*, stole our cooper's punch, which she was shewing to her companions alongside the Hecla just afterwards, when Lieutenant Hoppner observed it, and sent her back with an escort. It was impossible not to admit that the fault was chiefly on our side, in permitting these poor people to roam about too freely amidst temptations, which scarcely any thing human could have withstood; but as it was necessary to take some notice of it, I went through nearly the same process as with Kaoongut, and dismissed her with great appearance of indignation to the huts. We were glad to find that their wants had there been well supplied to-day, three seals having been caught. They had lately indeed been tolerably successful in general, and had required but little of our assistance. Mr. Elder observing one of their dogs attacked by several wolves, and hastening to the spot with his gun, found that these animals had made such quick work in the partition of their prey, that though he reached the scene of action in a few minutes, and

the dog had at first made considerable resistance, only one of its hind legs remained, each wolf having run off with its share. It is remarkable that these creatures had never entered our traps since the moon had declined to the southward; whereas, not a night elapsed before that without their going to them. The Esquimaux had in theirs caught only a fox.

During the eclipse of the sun, which took place to-day, the diminution of light was very considerable, but the weather was unfavourable for observing it for any useful purpose. Captain Lyon remarked that some of the Esquimaux who were on board the *Hecla* at the time, were a good deal alarmed at this phenomenon, which indeed made a general bustle among them. Two of them were found on the ice lying on their faces, but it was not ascertained whether their superstitions on this subject were the same as those of their brethren in Greenland.

Mr. Henderson being desirous of seeing something of the customs of these people

during the hours of darkness, obtained my permission to pass the night at the huts, accompanied by Mr. Griffiths. Soon after they left the ships in the evening, it came on to blow strong from the north-west, with much snow-drift, so that losing the tracks they with difficulty found the village. The wind quickly increased to a hard gale, and the thermometer rose from -25° at six P.M., to -16° at four the following morning. Our gentlemen returning on board in the course of the forenoon, we were pleased to hear that they had met with every attention, and especially from Okotook, with whom they lodged. As they had slept in Kaoongut's hut, one side of which was occupied by Okotook and his family, the old fellow thought it a good opportunity to make up the quarrel occasioned by his dishonesty; and he accordingly made his appearance on board to-day for the first time since that event. Tooloak was deputed to bring his father down into the cabin, where a formal reconciliation took place, to the great satisfaction of the

latter, who had found out that to be out of favour with us was attended with the serious consequence of being also out of pocket. It was laughable to observe the pains he now took to impress on the minds of every person he saw, that he was no longer a *tigliktoke*, by which name he had lately been distinguished; for he seemed to think that my receiving him again into favour was a perfect absolution from his offence.

The gale continued to blow from the north-west throughout the day, though the barometer gradually rose from 29.73 to 29.93 inches. Two ravens were seen: these birds, which were observed frequently in the course of the winter, were almost always seen in a single pair at a time, and their plumage remained perfectly black as in the summer.

On the 23d I paid another visit to the huts, and found the greater part of the men absent on their sealing excursions. We thought however that, except on pressing occasions, one man was left in each hut to keep an eye on the conduct of the women,

and this was the case to-day. The huts had in the interior assumed a somewhat different appearance since I had last seen them; the roofs were much blackened by the smoke of the lamps, and the warmth had in most parts given them a glazed and honey-combed surface; indeed, the whole of the walls had become much thinner by thawing, so that the light was more plainly visible through them. The snow also, on which the lamps stood, was considerably worn away, so as to destroy, in great measure, the regularity of the original plan of construction. To these changes might be added that of a vast quantity of blood and oil that now defaced the purity of the snowy floor, and emitted effluvia not very agreeable to European noses; so that, upon the whole, it may be imagined that our first impressions of the comfort and cleanliness of these habitations were more favourable than their present state was calculated to excite.

To the original apartments they had now also added various small places for stores, communicating with the huts from within,

and looking something like our ovens, though without any door to them. In some of these they deposited their upper jackets, which they usually take off in coming into their huts, as we do a great coat; while in smaller ones, like little shelves in a recess, they kept various articles of their Kablooana riches. These and similar alterations and additions they were constantly making throughout the winter; for their inexhaustable materials being always at hand, it required but little time and labour to adopt any arrangement that might suit their convenience.

After distributing a number of presents in the first four huts, I found on entering the last, that Pootooalook had been successful in bringing in a seal, over which two elderly women were standing, armed with large knives, their hands and faces besmeared with blood, and delight and exultation depicted on their countenances. They had just performed the first operation of dividing the animal into two parts, and thus laying open the intestines. These being taken out,

and all the blood carefully baled up and put into the *ootkooseek*, or cooking-pot, over the fire, they separated the head and flippers from the carcass, and then divided the ribs. All the loose scraps were put into the pot for immediate use, except such as the two butchers now and then crammed into their mouths, or distributed to the numerous and eager bystanders for still more immediate consumption. Of these morsels the children came in for no small share, every little urchin that could find its way to the slaughter-house, running eagerly in, and, between the legs of the men and women, presenting its mouth for a large lump of raw flesh, just as an English child of the same age might do for a piece of sugar-candy. Every now and then, also, a dog would make his way towards the reeking carcase, and when in the act of seizing upon some delicate part, was sent off yelping by a heavy blow with the handles of the knives. When all the flesh is disposed of, for a portion of which each of the women from the other huts usually brings her *ootkooseek*, the blubber

still remains attached to the skin, from which it is separated the last; and the business being now completed, the two parts of the hide are rolled up and laid by, together with the store of flesh and blubber. During the dissection of their seals, they have a curious custom of sticking a thin filament of skin, or of some part of the intestines, upon the foreheads of the boys, who are themselves extremely fond of it, it being intended, as Iligliuk afterwards informed me, to make them fortunate seal catchers.

The seals which they take during the winter are of two kinds,—the *Neitiek*, or small seal (*phoca hispida*), and the *Oguke*, or large seal (*phoca barbata*). These and the *Eī-ū-ěk*, or Walrus, constitute their means of subsistence at this season; but, on this particular part of the coast, the latter are not very abundant, and they chiefly catch the *neitiek*. The animal we had now seen dissected was of that kind, and with young at the time. A small one taken out of it had a beautiful skin, which, both in softness and colour, very much resembled

raw silk ; but no inducement could make Pootooalook part with it, he having destined it for that night's supper.

After quitting this scene of filth, I found, on returning to Kaoongut's hut, that Too-looak had been no less successful than his brother, and that the same operation was also performing here. Having, therefore, explained to Iligliuk that none of them were to come to the ships the following day, I had no inclination to see the process repeated, and was glad to take my leave.

On the 28th, Okotook and Iligliuk coming on board, an occurrence took place, which, as it shews the disposition of the Esquimaux, and especially of one of the most intelligent and interesting among them, I may here relate. Some time before, Iligliuk, who, from the superior neatness and cleanliness with which she performed her work, was by this time in great request as a sempstress, had promised to cover for me a little model of a canoe, and had in fact sent it to me by the serjeant of marines, though I had not rightly understood from

the latter from which of the women it came. Believing that she had failed in her promise, I now taxed her with it, when she immediately defended herself with considerable warmth and seriousness, but without making me comprehend her meaning. Finding that she was wasting her words upon me, she said no more till an hour afterwards, when the serjeant accidentally coming into the cabin, she, with the utmost composure, but with a decision of manner peculiar to herself, took hold of his arm to engage his attention, and then looking him stedfastly in the face, accused him of not having faithfully executed her commission to me. The mistake was thus instantly explained, and I thanked Iligliuk for her canoe; but it is impossible for me to describe the quiet, yet proud, satisfaction displayed in her countenance at having thus cleared herself from the imputation of a breach of promise.

There being among the presents with which we were supplied a number of pikes, we presented two or three of these from

each ship to the most deserving of the Esquimaux, to serve as staves for their spears; and valuable ones they proved to them. Upon each pike were marked, by small nails driven into the wood, the words 'Fury and Hecla, 1822.'

Almost the whole of these people were now affected with violent colds and coughs, occasioned by a considerable thawing that had lately taken place in their huts, so as to wet their clothes and bedding; though we had as yet experienced no great increase of temperature. From the nature of their habitations, however, their comfort was greater, and their chance of health better, when the cold was more severe. On this account, they began to make fresh alterations in these curious dwelling-places, either by building the former apartments two or three feet higher, or adding others, that they might be less crowded. In building a higher hut, they constructed it over, and, as it were, concentric with the old one, which is then removed from within. It is curious to consider that, in all these alte-

rations, the object kept in view was *coolness*, and this in houses formed of snow!

Some of them had caught a wolf in their trap; but we found that nothing less than extreme want could have induced them to eat the flesh of that which we had given them, as, now that they had other food, they would not touch it. Only four wolves at this time remained alive of the original pack, and these were constantly prowling about near the ships or the village.

The month of Februrary closed with the thermometer at -32° , and though the sun had now attained a meridian altitude of nearly sixteen degrees, and enlivened us with his presence above the horizen for ten hours in the day, no sensible effect had yet been produced on the average temperature of the atmosphere. The uniformly white surface of the snow, on which at this season the sun's rays have to act, or rather leaving them nothing to act upon, is much against the first efforts to produce a thaw; but our former experience of the astonishing rapidity with which this operation is carried on,

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when once the ground begins to be laid bare, served in some measure to reconcile us to what appeared a protraction of the cold of winter not to have been expected in our present latitude.

CHAPTER VIII.

A journey performed across Winter Island—sufferings of the party by frost—Departure of some of the Esquimaux, and a separate village established on the ice—Various meteorological phenomena—Okotook and his wife brought on board—Anecdotes relating to them—Ships released from the ice by sawing.

Our intercourse with the Esquimaux continued, and many occasions occurred in which they displayed great good humour, and a degree of archness, for which we could have scarcely given them credit.

On the 12th, Okotook came, according to an appointment previously made, with a sledge and six dogs, to give me a ride to the huts, bringing with him his son Sioutkuk, who, with ourselves, made up a weight of near four hundred pounds upon the sledge. After being upset twice, and stopping at

least ten times, notwithstanding the incessant bullying of Okotook, and as it seemed to me more bodily labour on his part to steer us clear of accidents, than if he had walked the whole way, we at length arrived at the huts, a distance of two miles, in five-and-twenty minutes. Of this equipment, and their usual modes of travelling, I shall have occasion to speak more fully in another place.

I found that several fresh alterations had been made in the huts since my last visit, all, however, of the same kind, and having in view the same object as those last described. In these alterations, they seem to consult the convenience of the moment, and to do it all by such unanimous consent, that no consultation or difference of opinion ever appears to exist about it. So much snow-drift had now collected about the huts, that their external appearance was as much altered as that of the interior, and it was difficult to trace any resemblance to the original village, or even to perceive its present limits. The snow was now as high as

the roofs on every side, so that one might walk completely over them, and, but for the round plates of ice composing the windows, without suspecting the little hive of human beings that was comfortably established below. This, however, was not always done with impunity, when the thawing within had too much weakened the roofs, in which case a leg sometimes made its way through and discovered in what parts repairs were become necessary. The natives were at this time extremely well furnished with seals' flesh for food, and oil for their lamps, and all they would accept from us (except meat, which we could not afford to give) was water, and this they swallowed in such quantities whenever they came to the ships, that it was impossible to furnish them with half as much as they desired.

We had before this time communicated to Ayoket and his countrymen our intention of sending a party of our people to the northward in the spring; and Captain Lyon had displayed to him all the charms of a brightly-polished brass kettle, of greater

magnitude than had perhaps ever entered into an Esquimaux imagination, as an inducement, among various others, for him to accompany the Kabloonas in their excursion. The prospect of such riches was a temptation almost irresistible; but enterprise is not the genius of an Esquimaux; and Ayoket, we soon began to perceive, had no fancy for the proposed trip, which all his friends persisted in saying could never be accomplished. This was evidently to be attributed, in no small degree, to jealousy of any one individual among them being thus selected; and the brass kettle was speedily the means of increasing the distance to 'Iligliuk's country,' from sixteen to twenty-four days' journey. We had long, indeed, observed that this feeling of jealousy was easily excited among these people; but what is extraordinary, it never displayed itself (as is most usual) among themselves, but was entirely verted upon us, who were, though innocently, the authors of it. As an instance of this, a man of the name of *Karrëtok* refused to take

from me a strong and useful pair of scissors, as a present, because, as he did not hesitate to assure me, I had given Okotook a pike, which was *more* valuable. To show him that this temper was not likely to produce any thing to his advantage, I took back the scissors, and having sent him away, went to my dinner. Going accidentally on deck an hour afterwards, I found Karretok still on board, who, having had time to reflect on his folly, now came up to me with a smiling face, and begged hard for the scissors, which of course he did not get. Many similar instances occurred, both to Captain Lyon and myself.

To this discouragement on the part of his friends, was added on that of Ayoket the same wavering and inconstant disposition which most other savages possess, rendering it impossible to place any dependence on his promises and intentions for two hours together. Indeed the more our scheme was pressed upon his attention, and the more he saw of the actual preparations for the journey, the less doubtful his intentions

became; and arrangements were therefore made for completing the party without him. For the reasons now given, it was equally impossible ever to direct the attention of the Esquimaux, with any hope of success, to our scheme of their conveying letters to the Hudson's Bay settlements.

On the 13th and 14th the weather was extremely mild, the thermometer getting as high as $+9\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; and as this took place with a north-west wind, which was usually the coldest, we began to flatter ourselves that the spring was now indeed advancing by rapid strides. On the evening of the 14th, though the thermometer was no higher than $+4^{\circ}$, the atmosphere had a degree of softness in it so pleasant to our sensations that, as one of the quarter-masters not unnaturally, however unphilosophically, remarked, 'it felt exactly as if it was going to rain'—a phenomenon, however, that was not so near as we then expected. This apparent turn in the season induced me to allow Captain Lyon to put in execution a plan he had proposed, of going out with

his intended party for one day, for the double purpose of affording them a little practice, and of ascertaining the breadth and nature of the channel which he would have to cross on the ice, in order to reach the main land. As the plan of the journey partly depended upon this, I agreed to his proposal of setting out for this purpose on the following day, taking with him a tent, blankets, and provisions for three days in case of accidents.

At seven A.M. on the 15th, Captain Lyon and his party left the ships; the thermometer being as high as zero, and a moderate breeze blowing from the northward though accompanied by considerable snow-drift; an annoyance which it now required much less strength of wind to create than at the commencement of the winter, owing to the snow having become more minute. From the very hour of Captain Lyon's departure the thermometer began to fall rapidly, and the wind to increase; till at midnight the former had reached -32° and a hard gale blew from the north-west;

upon the whole it proved one of the most inclement nights for people to be exposed to, that we had experienced in our present quarters, and therefore created in our minds the most alarming apprehensions for the safety of our travellers. It is scarcely less difficult to imagine than to describe the contrast between exposure to all the horrors of such tremendous inclemency, and the fire-side comforts we on board were enjoying. In this climate more frequently than in any other does the mind turn to the

Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er they be,
That bide the pelting of the pitiless storm.

But now that some of our own companions were thus exposed, the idea came more forcibly home to our recollections, together with the utter helplessness, not to say hopelessness, of their situation.

The wind and drift continued incessantly on the 16th; and as the thermometer rose no higher than -20° during the day, our apprehensions for Captain Lyon's party were by no means diminished. To send in quest of them, would have been only to incur the

certainty of other men being equally exposed. Indeed this is one of the cases in which no assistance can be offered; for any persons sent out with that hope must inevitably become helpless in a short time, while the snow-drift would render it impossible to trace those whom they were intended to assist. We had, however, prepared a party under Lieutenant Reid to be despatched the instant it moderated, when to our infinite surprise and joy, at one P. M. Captain Lyon arrived on board, having with great difficulty succeeded in conducting his party safely to the ships.

They had suffered dreadfully from extreme cold, the faces of several of the party were severely frost-bitten, and none but those who have been in a similar state of distress can imagine the joy they felt at finding the path which led them, on their return, to the ships.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, some of the Esquimaux had, by the foot and sledge marks, found their way to the ships on the morning of the 16th,

assuring us, as we found to be too true, that in consequence of the gale which prevented their going out for seals they had not any food, nor a single lamp a-light in the village. In the course of the following day, we had further proofs of the wretchedness which these poor people were enduring at the huts; for, though the weather was little better than before, above forty men and women besides some children came down to the ships, and begged with more than their usual earnestness for something to eat. It now once more became an act of humanity, and consequently of duty, to supply them as well as we were able; and all were admitted to partake of as much bread-dust as they could eat, besides a quantity which they took away with them. It had been long since Okotook and Iligliuk cared to accept this kind of food from us, partly because our respect for the latter generally ensured them something better, and partly because of late they had procured plenty of seals; to-day, however, they devoured it eagerly, and seemed very well satisfied to take their

share with the others. When the usual time of departure came, they all discovered a wish to remain on board; but as we could not find lodging for the whole tribe, they were obliged very reluctantly to return. *Nannow*, a fine quiet young man, whose native country is near Chesterfield Inlet, and who, having only a sister here, used to live with Okotook, begged very hard to remain on board, but as I did not like to give the preference to one in particular, he also took his leave.

On the 18th, almost every man from the huts was out seal-hunting, and three or four, as the women informed us, had gone to a considerable distance for walruses, and with the intention of remaining out for the night in a snow hut. While the men were thus employed, their wives did not fail to use their endeavours also to procure food; and I believe that every female belonging to the village, without a single exception, made her appearance at the ships to-day, and was supplied with a proportion of bread-dust for her family. It was pleasing

to observe, that they were always punctual in returning the buckets and bags which we lent them for carrying out their provisions.

The fact of our ships not having required pumping out, either here or at Melville Island, for several months together during the winter, naturally led me to consider what was likely to be the reason of this extraordinary tightness. It is true, indeed, that after the first winter a certain quantity of ice was subsequently found mixed with the coals which composed our ballast, but this quantity bore a trifling proportion to the ten or twelve inches of water which found its way into the pump-well *daily* throughout the summer. It appears probable, therefore, that any small leak through which the water only slowly filters may become altogether stopped by its freezing, whenever the temperature of the hold has fallen a few degrees below the freezing-point of sea water. For the latter, being already cooled down as low as in its fluid state it can be, will very readily freeze when,

by its entrance into the ship, it meets with a greater degree of cold, especially if (as is very frequently the case) the leak should be about a metal-bolt which, by its conducting property, would very much favour the process of congelation.

The endeavours we had lately been making to gain from the Esquimaux some knowledge of the geographical features of the land to the northward, had at length been crowned with even greater success than we had anticipated, and some information of a very gratifying and interesting nature thus obtained. I shall here, therefore, give some account of that information, and of the progressive steps by which it was communicated, which may, at the same time, serve to show the kind and degree of dependence that is to be placed in geographical notices thus obtained.

The first attempt made in this way was by placing several sheets of paper before Iligliuk, and roughly drawing on a large scale an outline of the land about Repulse Bay and Lyon Inlet, and terminating at our

present winter-quarters. If information and not mere curiosity be the object, this in my opinion is an indispensable precaution; for that object can hardly be so well obtained by leaving a savage to puzzle his way over fifty leagues of coast already known, when by delineating it with tolerable accuracy, his conceptions, instead of being confused, may be assisted. Iligliuk was not long in comprehending what we desired, and with a pencil continued the outline, making the land trend, as we supposed, to the north-eastward, and giving the names of the principal places as she proceeded. The scale being large, it was necessary, when she came to the end of one piece of paper, to tack on another, till at length she had filled ten or twelve sheets, and had completely lost sight of Winter Island (called *Neyūning-Eīt-dūā*) at the other end of the table. The idea entertained from this first attempt was, that we should find the coast indented by several inlets and in some parts much loaded with ice, especially at one strait to the northward of her native island Amitioke,

which seemed to lead in a direction very much to the westward.

Within a week after this, several other charts were drawn by the natives in a similar way, principally by the desire of Captain Lyon and Mr. Griffiths, who took great pains to acquire information of this nature, and sent me copies of these productions. The coast was here delineated as before, on a very large scale, but much more in detail, many more islands, bays, and names being inserted. It was observable, however, that no two charts much resembled each other, and that the greater number of them still less resembled the truth in those parts of the coast with which we were well acquainted.

Early in the morning the Esquimaux had been observed in motion at the huts; and several sledges, drawn by dogs and heavily laden, went off to the westward. On going out to the village, we found one-half of the people had quitted their late habitations, taking with them every article of their property, and had gone over the ice, we knew

not where, in quest of more abundant food. The wretched appearance which the interior of the huts now presented baffles all description. In each of the larger ones some of the apartments were either wholly or in part deserted, the very snow which composed the beds and fire-places having been turned up, that no article might be left behind. Even the bare walls, whose original colour was scarcely perceptible for lamp-black, blood, and other filth, were not left perfect, large holes having been made in the sides and roofs for the convenience of handing out the goods and chattels. The sight of a deserted habitation is at all times calculated to excite in the mind a sensation of dreariness and desolation, especially when we have lately seen it filled with cheerful inhabitants; but the feeling is even heightened rather than diminished when a small portion of these inhabitants remain behind to endure the wretchedness which such a scene exhibits. This was now the case at the village, where, though the remaining tenants of each hut had combined to occupy

one of the apartments, a great part of the bed-places were still bare, and the wind and drift blowing in through the holes which they had not yet taken the trouble to stop up. The old man Hikkeiera and his wife occupied a hut by themselves, without any lamp, or a single ounce of meat belonging to them; while three small skins, on which the former was lying, were all that they possessed in the way of blankets. Upon the whole, I never beheld a more miserable spectacle, and it seemed a charity to hope that a violent and constant cough, with which the old man was afflicted, would speedily combine with his age and infirmities to release him from his present sufferings. Yet in the midst of all this, he was even cheerful, nor was there a gloomy countenance to be seen at the village. Almost all the men were out; and some of them had been led so far to sea upon the floating and detached masses of ice in pursuit of walruses, that Captain Lyon, who observed their situation from the ships, had it in contemplation, in the course of the

evening, to launch one of the small boats to go to their assistance. They seemed, however, to entertain no apprehensions themselves, from a confidence, perhaps, that the south-east wind might be depended upon for keeping the ice close home upon the shore. It is certain, notwithstanding, that no degree of precaution, nor any knowledge of the winds and tides, can render this otherwise than a most perilous mode of obtaining subsistence; and it was impossible, therefore, not to admire the fearlessness as well as dexterity with which the Esquimaux invariably pursued it.

Having distributed some bread-dust among the women, we told old Illumea and her daughter Togolat that we proposed taking up our lodging in their hut for the night. It is a remarkable trait in the character of these people, that they always thank you heartily for this, as well as for eating any of their meat; but both board and lodging may be given to *them* without receiving the slightest acknowledgment, either in word or deed. As it was late

before the men returned, I asked Togolat to get the rest of the women to perform some of their games, with the hope of seeing something that was new. I had scarcely time to make the proposal when she darted out of the hut, and quickly brought every female that was left at the village, not excepting even the oldest of them, who joined in the performance with the same alacrity as the rest. I could, however, only persuade them to go through a tedious song we had often before heard, which was now, indeed, somewhat modified by their insisting on our taking our turns in the performance, all which did not fail to create among them never-ceasing merriment and laughter. Neither their want of food and fuel, nor the uncertain prospect of obtaining any that night, were sufficient to deprive these poor creatures of that cheerfulness and good-humour which it seems at all times their peculiar happiness to enjoy.

The night proved very thick, with small snow, and as disagreeable and dangerous for people adrift upon floating ice as can

well be imagined. If the women, however, gave their husbands a thought, or spoke of them to us, it was only to express a very sincere hope that some good news might shortly arrive of their success. Our singing party had not long been broken up when it was suddenly announced by one of the children, the usual heralds on such occasions, that the men had killed something on the ice. The only two men who were at home instantly scrambled on their outer jackets, harnessed their dogs, and set off to assist their companions in bringing home the game, while the women remained for an hour in anxious suspense as to the extent of their husbands' success. At length one of the men arrived with the positive intelligence of two walruses having been taken, and brought with him a portion of these huge animals as large as he could drag over the snow. If the women were only cheerful before, they were now absolutely frantic. A general shout of joy instantly re-echoed through the village; they ran into each other's huts to communicate the

welcome intelligence, and actually hugged one another in an ecstasy of delight by way of congratulation. One of them, *Arnalōōā*, a pretty young woman of nineteen or twenty, knowing that a dog belonging to her husband was still at the huts, and that there was no man to take him down on the ice, ran out instantly to perform that office; and with a hardiness not to be surpassed by any of the men, returned, after two hours' absence, with her load of walrus flesh, and without even the hood thrown over her head to shelter her from the inclemency of the weather.

When the first burst of joy had at length subsided, the women crept, one by one, into the apartment where the first portion of the sea-horses had been conveyed, and which is always that of one of the men immediately concerned in the killing of them. Here they obtained blubber enough to set all their lamps a-light, besides a few scraps of meat for their children and themselves. From this time, which was nine o'clock, till past midnight, fresh cargoes were continually



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arriving; the principal part being brought in by the dogs, and the rest by the men, who, tying the thong which held it round their waist, dragged in each his separate portion. Before the whole was brought in, however, some of them went out three times to the scene of action, though the distance was a mile and a half.

Every lamp now swimming with oil, the huts exhibited a blaze of light, and never was there a scene of more joyous festivity than while the operation of cutting up the walruses continued. I took the opportunity, which their present good humour afforded, to obtain a perfect head and tusks of one of these animals, which we had not been able to do before; and, indeed, so much were their hearts opened by the scene of abundance before them, that I believe they would have given us anything we asked for. This disposition was considerably increased also by their taking into their heads, that their success was in some way or other connected with, or even owing to, our having taken up our night's lodging at the huts.

After viewing all this festivity for some time, I felt disposed to rest; and wrapping myself up in my fur coat, lay down on one of the beds which Illumea had given up for our accommodation, as well as her *kēipik*, or large deer-skin blanket, which she rolled up for my pillow. The poor old woman herself sat up by her lamp, and in that posture seemed perfectly well satisfied to doze away the night. The singularity of my night's lodging made me awake several times, when I always found some of the Esquimaux eating, though, after we lay down, they kept quite quiet for fear of disturbing us. Mr. Halse, who was still more wakeful, told me that some of them were incessantly employed in this manner for more than three hours. Indeed, the quantity of meat that thus they contrive to get rid of is almost beyond belief.

Having at length enjoyed a sound nap, I found on waking about five o'clock that the men were already up, and had gone out to renew their labours on the ice, so that several of them could not have rested more than

two or three hours. This circumstance served to correct a notion we had entertained, that when once abundantly supplied with food they took no pains to obtain more till want began again to stare them in the face. It was now more pleasing to be assured that, even in the midst of plenty, they did not indolently give themselves up to repose, but were willing to take advantage of every favourable opportunity of increasing their store. It is certain, indeed, that were these people more provident (or, in other words, less gluttonous, for they do not waste much), they might never know what it is to want provisions, even during the most inclement part of the year. The state of the ice was to-day very unfavourable for their purpose, being broken into pieces so small that they could scarcely venture to walk upon it.

The morning of the 5th proved favourable for a journey I had in contemplation to the distant huts, to which Iligliuk, who had come to Winter Island the day before, promised to be my guide. At six o'clock I set

out, accompanied by Mr. Bushnan and two of the men, carrying with us a supply of bread-dust besides our own provisions and blankets. As the distance was too great for her son Sioutkuk to walk, we were uncertain till the moment of setting out how this was to be managed, there being no sledge at hand for the purpose. We found, however, that a man, whom we had observed for some time at work among the hummocks of ice upon the beach, had been employed in cutting out of that abundant material a neat and serviceable little sledge, hollowed like a bowl or tray, out of a solid block, and smoothly rounded at the bottom. The thong to which the dogs were attached was secured to a groove cut round its upper edge; and the young seal-catcher, seated in this simple vehicle, was dragged along with great convenience and comfort.

The ice over which we travelled was a level floe that had never suffered disturbance since its first formation in the autumn, and with not more than an inch and a half of snow upon it. The path being distinctly

marked out by the people, sledges, and dogs, that had before travelled upon it, one might, without any great stretch of the imagination, have almost fancied it a road leading over a level and extensive heath towards a more civilized and substantial village than that which we were now approaching. Iligliuk walked as nimbly as the best of us: and after two hours and a half brisk travelling, we arrived at the huts, and were received by the women (for all the men were absent) with every expression of kindness and welcome. Each was desirous of affording us lodging, and we had speedily arranged matters so as to put them to the least possible inconvenience.

These huts, four in number, were, in the mode of their construction, exact counterparts of those at Winter Island on our first visit, but being now new and clean, presented a striking contrast with the latter, in their present disordered and filthy state. What gave a peculiarity, as well as beauty also, to the interior appearance of these habitations, was their being situated on the

ice, which, being cleared of the snow, presented a flooring of that splendid blue which is, perhaps, one of the richest colours that nature affords. A seal or two having been lately procured, every lamp was now blazing, and every *ōōtkōseēk* smoking with a hot mess, which, together with the friendly reception we experienced and a little warmth and fatigue from travelling, combined in conveying to our minds an idea of comfort which we could scarcely believe an Esquimaux hut capable of exciting.

On the arrival of the men, who came in towards evening with two seals as the reward of their labour, we were once more greeted and welcomed. Arnaneelia, in particular, who was a quiet, obliging, and even amiable man, was delighted to find my quarters were to be in his apartment, where *Anēētkā*, his wife, a young woman of about twenty-three, had already arranged every thing for my accommodation; and both these poor people now vied with each other in their attention to my comfort. The other two apartments of the same hut were occu-

pied by Kaoongut and Okotook, with their respective wives and families; it being the constant custom of these people thus to unite in family groups whenever the nature of their habitations will allow it. Mr. Bushnan being established with Okotook, and the two men with Kaoongut, we were thus all comfortably lodged under the same roof.

Toolooak having been concerned in killing one of the seals just brought in, it fell to his mother's lot to dissect it, the *neitiak* being the only animal which the women are permitted to cut up. We had therefore an opportunity of seeing this filthy operation once more performed, and entirely by the old lady herself, who was soon up to her elbows in blood and oil. Before a knife is put into the animal, as it lies on its back, they pour a little water into its mouth, and touch each flipper and the middle of the belly with a little lamp-black and oil taken from the under part of the lamp. What benefit was expected from this preparatory ceremony we could not learn, but it was done with a degree of superstitious care and

seriousness that bespoke its indispensable importance. The boys came eagerly into the hut as usual, and held out their foreheads for the old woman to stick the charms upon them; and it was not till now that we learned from Iligliuk the efficacy of this very useful custom. As soon as this dirty operation was at an end, during which the numerous bystanders amused themselves in chewing the intestines of the seal, the strangers retired to their own huts, each bearing a small portion of the flesh and blubber, while our hosts enjoyed a hearty meal of boiled meat and hot gravy soup. Young Sioutkuk ate at least three pounds of solid meat in the first three hours after our arrival at the huts, besides a tolerable proportion of soup, all which his mother gave him whenever he asked it, without the smallest remark of any kind. We now found that they depended on catching seals alone for their subsistence, there being no walruses in this neighbourhood. As they were several miles from any open water, their mode of killing them was entirely

confined to watching for the animals coming up in the holes they make through the ice.

In the course of the evening our conversation happened to turn on the Indians, a people whom none of these Esquimaux had ever seen; but with whose ferocity and decided hostility to their own nation they seemed to be well acquainted. They described, also, their peculiar manner of paddling their canoes, and were aware that they made use of the kind of snow shoes which we showed them. When I related to them, as well as I was able, the massacre of the Esquimaux recorded by Hearne, and gave them to understand that the Indians spared neither age nor sex, it seemed to chill them with horror, and I was almost sorry that I had told them the story.

April 11.—We were now glad to begin making some show of re-equipping the ships for sea; for though this was a business that might, if necessary, have been very well accomplished in two or three weeks, it was better to employ the men in occupa-

tions having an evident and determinate object, than in those less obviously useful ones to which it was necessary to resort during the winter. We therefore brought down some of the boats to the ships to repair, put up the forge on the ice, and built a snow house over it, and set about various other jobs, which made the neighbourhood of the ships assume a busy and bustling appearance.

I had to-day a visit from Okotook and Iligliuk, who, with their son, came in upon their sledge from the distant huts. Being desirous of entertaining them well, in return for their late hospitality, we provided abundance to eat, and showed them everything about the ship that we thought likely to amuse them. Of all the wonders they had ever witnessed on board, there was nothing which seemed to impress them so strongly with a sense of our superiority as the forge, and the work which the armourer performed with it. The welding of two pieces of iron especially excited their admiration, and I never saw Iligliuk express so much asto-

nishment at anything before. Even in this her superior good sense was observable, for it was evident that the utility of what she saw going on was what forced itself upon her mind; and she watched every stroke of the hammer and each blast of the bellows with extreme eagerness, while numbers of the other Esquimaux looked stupidly on, without expressing the smallest curiosity or interest in the operation, except by desiring to have some spear-heads fashioned out by this means. Iligliuk was always very much entertained also by pictures having any relation to the Esquimaux in other parts, and derived great entertainment from a description of any difference in their clothes, utensils, or weapons. Of these the sail in an Esquimaux boat seemed particularly to attract her notice; but in general she had no inclination to admit the inferiority of her own tribe to any other. She was always extremely inquisitive about her own sex, whether *Innuées** or *Kabloonas*,

* Esquimaux.

listening with eager attention to any account of their dress or occupations, and in common, I believe, with all the rest of the Esquimaux, wondered how we came to travel to their country without our wives. The assurance that many among us were not married, they received with evident incredulity.

We to-day cleared away the snow that had been banked against the ships' sides, the use of which was proved a day or two after, by the frost making a large rent in the Fury's rudder, and another in her stem. This covering, therefore, should not have been removed so early. Mr. Fisher having now concluded most of the observations and experiments for which the house was built, it was taken down and the materials brought on board; the transit instrument and meridian mark remaining as before, to enable him to commence a series of observations for the pendulum, whenever the weather should become warm enough for the clock to be set up in a tent. The continuance of comparatively temperate wea-

ther, though it was much colder than we had expected at this season, induced us also to begin clearing and turning up a small piece of ground as a garden for each ship, in which we hoped to produce something in the way of vegetable diet before our departure, especially as we were now supplied with several glazed frames for hot-beds. There was not at this time a bare spot of ground anywhere to be seen, so that we had to clear away the snow, in some places two or three feet deep, in order to find a space that would suit our purpose; and it was then so full of stones and frozen ground that it required great labour even to prepare mould enough for the frames. These were, however, completed in a few days, and sown with mustard, cress, and pease, the latter having been found to produce the greatest quantity of green substance at Melville Island.

On the 13th, a number of the natives from the Winter Island huts formed a second detachment, and set off for the other village. They carried their goods on sledges

as before, even to the exclusion of poor old Hikkeiera, whom some of our gentlemen overtook crawling after his companions with a stick, and who, but for their timely and humane remonstrances, might that day have finished his pilgrimage on earth. They insisted, however, on his being placed on one of the sledges, which was accordingly complied with; but, on their arrival at the village, his companions left him lying there till their huts were built. All the Esquimaux pressed our gentlemen very strongly to sleep at the village, but one of the women gave Mr. Bird an indifferent specimen of her hospitality, by picking his pocket of a handkerchief, though not so dexterously as to escape detection. The few who visited the ships to-day told us, that they were all about to leave Winter Island on the morrow; and Okotook and Iligliuk, who had not yet returned, came on board among the rest to pay a last visit. I gave the former a large piece of oak-wood for a bow and two arrows, a second iron spear-head, and various other articles, to add to the stock

of wealth he had from time to time received from us. As these good folks found themselves perfectly at home in my cabin, I was usually in the habit of continuing my occupations when they were there, without being disturbed by them. Being now engaged in writing, my attention was unexpectedly directed towards them by Iligliuk's suddenly starting from her seat, moving quickly towards the door, and, without saying a word either to me or any of the officers present, hastening directly on deck. Okotook, indeed, as he followed her out of the cabin, turned round and said 'Good bye,' of which expression he had learned the meaning, and then, without giving us time to return the compliment, they both hurried out of the ship, leaving us in some astonishment at this singular leave-taking, which we then supposed to be the last.

April 15.—A case or two of inflammation in the eyes, producing partial 'snow-blindness,' having lately occurred, I directed a quarter of a yard of crape, supplied for that purpose, to be furnished to each man, to be

worn as a short veil over the eyes. At the same time were issued to each individual in the Expedition a pair of boots and warm stockings, being part or a supply of warm clothing with which we had been furnished, to be served *gratis* at my discretion. This liberal addition to the men's clothing was particularly acceptable at this time, as we were shortly about to commence cutting the ice round the ships, previous to making any alteration in the stowage of their holds. While preparations were making for this work, it was suggested to me that, strongly as the ice was now cemented to the ships' sides, we might, by cutting a trench round their bows to the depth of three or four feet (taking care not to admit the water,) have an opportunity of examining the planks, and caulking the seams where they were most likely to require it. This plan was adopted, and was found completely to answer the purpose for which it was intended.

On the morning of the 16th, the weather being extremely fine, Captain Lyon left the ships, accompanied by Lieutenant Palmer

and the rest of his travelling party, and equipped for remaining the night, with the intention of effecting the object which on his former excursion the inclemency of the weather had rendered impracticable. We were glad to find that a very moderate breeze from the north-west served once more to separate the ice, which had for some days past been attached to the land, and to send it off to a considerable distance. The thermometer being from 3° to 9° during the day, very little frost-smoke rose from the clear water. Some hard well-defined clouds, being nearly the first we had seen this season, appeared for a short time to-day, and were welcomed as the harbingers of returning moisture in the atmosphere.

Early on the morning of the 17th the thermometer fell to -12° , being the lowest temperature we had now experienced for some time. At ten A.M., Captain Lyon and his party returned, having walked some distance beyond the spot where they had before been detained, and determined which must be the route to be pursued whenever

they set out on their intended journey. They found the passage between the island and the continent to be from one to two miles in breadth ; and that the hummocky nature of the ice would not, as we had hoped, admit of their cutting off any of the distance to be travelled between the island and the north-eastern point of land.

We could now begin to perceive, from day to day, that the snow on shore was diminishing. How slow this process was, may, however, be understood by the fact, that it was necessary to make a mark on some stone to be assured it was thus receding. Our snow-wall had indeed settled down nearly a foot by the gradual diminution of the blocks of which it was composed ; but the thawing had been artificially assisted by the black cloth hung against it. Five ravens were seen to-day, all quite black ; four of them were flying in pairs.

On the 22d a number of the Esquimaux came to the ships with a sledge, and among the rest my late host Arnaneelia and his wife, the latter having the front of her jacket

adorned with numberless strings of beads that we had given her, arranged with exact uniformity, to which, in the fashion of their dresses and the disposition of their ornaments, these people always rigidly adhere. Aneekta had scarcely reached the cabin when she produced a little ivory comb and a pair of handsome mittens, which she presented to Mr. Edwards, at the same time thanking him for the attention he had shown her on an occasion when she had been taken in a fit alongside the *Fury*, from which she was recovered by bleeding. This expression of gratitude, in which she was heartily joined by her husband, was extremely gratifying to us; as it served, in some degree, to redeem these people in our estimation from the imputation of ingratitude, which is indeed one of their greatest failings. They stated having seen two rein-deer the preceding day going over the ice to the main land. They spoke of this with great pleasure: and we were ourselves not displeased with the prospect of changing our diet for a little venison. They now became extremely urgent

with us for wood to make bows and arrows, most of their own having, with the childishness that accompanied their first barterings, been parted with to our officers and men. Having several broken oars which could be turned to little or no account on board, we were enabled, at a small expense of useful stores, to furnish them very abundantly with wood for this purpose. Arnaneelia also informed us that Okotook, who had been unwell for some days, was now much worse, and seemed, as he described it, to be labouring under a violent pulmonary complaint. On the circumstance being mentioned to Mr. Skeoch, he kindly volunteered to go to the village, and accordingly took his seat on the sledge accompanied also by Mr. Sherer. They carried with them a quantity of bread-dust to be distributed among the Esquimaux at the huts, their success in seal-catching having lately been indifferent.

On the 23d, being St. George's day, which is commanded to be celebrated as the anniversary of His Majesty's birth-day, we commemorated that event in the best

manner our situation would permit, by dressing the ships in flags at the masts-heads and making a certain addition to the allowance of meat and spirits to the ships' companies. In the course of the afternoon Mr. Skeoch returned from the huts, having left Okotook somewhat relieved by a copious bleeding, but still labouring under a violent inflammatory complaint, requiring more comfort and attention than the huts were capable of affording. Mr. Skeoch said the Esquimaux had received him very kindly, and expressed many thanks for his assistance.

In digging up the piece of ground for our garden, we found an incredible quantity of bones scattered about and concealed under the little soil there was. They were principally those of walruses and seals, and had evidently been left a long time before by Esquimaux, in the course of their wandering visits to the island, being gradually covered by the vegetable mould formed upon the spot which they helped to fertilize. Afterwards, when the land became more

clear of snow, this was found to be the case to a much greater extent, every spot of ground upon the south-east point, which was not absolutely a rock, being covered with these relics. Some graves were also discovered, in one of which were a human skull, apparently a hundred years buried, and some pieces of wood that had probably been parts of spears or arrows almost mouldered to dust. Knowing as we do the antiseptic properties of this climate, animal or vegetable substances in this state of decay convey to the mind an idea of much greater age than they would in any other part of the world.

A number of Esquimaux came to the ships on the 25th, notwithstanding a strong breeze from the S.W.b.W., with a considerable snow-drift. From these people we learned that Okotook's complaint had increased since Mr. Skeoch's visit, and that he was now extremely ill. Mr. Bushnan immediately offered to go to the huts for the purpose of bringing him on board, where, by Mr. Edwards's kind attentions, and the

enjoyment of warmth and dryness, we hoped soon to recover him. Mr. Bushnan, therefore, without waiting for the return of the sledges, set out for the village at an early hour in the forenoon, accompanied by the serjeant of marines. At eleven at night our party returned on board, bringing on a sledge Okotook, Iligliuk, and their son. That Iligliuk would accompany her husband I, of course, took for granted and wished; but as the boy could do us no good, and was moreover a desperate eater, I had desired Mr. Bushnan to try whether a slight objection to his being of the party would induce Okotook to leave him with his other relations. This he had cautiously done; but the instant the proposal was made, Okotook, without any remark, began to take off the clothes he had himself just dressed in to set out. No further objection being made, however, he again prepared for the journey, Iligliuk assisting him with the most attentive solicitude. Before the invalid was suffered to leave his apartment, some of the by-standers sent for Ewerat,

now better known to our people by the undignified appellation of the 'Conjuror.' Ewerat, on this occasion, maintained a degree of gravity and reserve calculated to inspire somewhat more respect than we had hitherto been disposed to entertain for him in that capacity. Placing himself at the door of the apartment opposite Okotook, who was still seated on the bed, he held both his thumbs in his mouth, keeping up a silent but solemn converse with his *toorn-gow**, the object of which was, as Mr. Bushnan presently afterwards found, to inquire into the efficacy and propriety of the sick man's removal. Presently he began to utter a variety of confused and inarticulate sounds; and it being at length understood that a favourable answer had been given, Okotook was carried out and placed on the sledge, Ewerat still mumbling his thumbs and muttering his incantations as before. When the party took their leave, there were a great many doleful faces among

* Familiar spirit.

those that remained behind; and Mr. Bushnan said that the whole scene more resembled the preparations for a funeral than the mere removal of a sick man. When the sledge moved on, Ewerat was the only one who had not a 'Good-bye!' ready, he being as seriously engaged as at first, and continuing so as long as our people could observe him.

Okotook was extremely ill on his arrival, having been three hours on the sledge, and Iligliuk, who, as Mr. Bushnan told me, had scarcely taken her eyes off her husband's face the whole time, seemed almost worn out with fatigue and anxiety. A bed of wolf-skins being prepared for him, Okotook was soon placed upon it, and such remedies applied as Mr. Edwards judged necessary for his complaint, which was inflammation of the lungs to a degree that, if left to itself, or even to Ewerat, would soon have proved fatal, or at best have terminated in consumption.

On the 26th, a south-east wind brought a heavy fall of snow in flakes much larger

than before. The thermometers on the ice at noon stood at 23° in both aspects. We heard from Illumea, who came to see her son Okotook, that a part of the natives had gone still farther to the westward upon the ice, one spot not affording sufficient subsistence for the whole of them. Our patient felt much the better for a comfortable night's lodging, and now submitted with great patience to the application of a blister, though I believe his confidence in our mode of cure was afterwards shaken for a time by the pain which it occasioned. Both he and Iligliuk, however, seemed very sensibly to feel the comforts and advantages of their present quarters; and a 'coyenna' (thanks) now and then fell from their lips. Nothing could exceed the attention which the latter paid to her husband; she kept her eyes almost constantly fixed upon him, and seemed anxious to anticipate every want.

One of Okotook's brothers had arrived from the huts, bringing with him some walrus-flesh to tempt the appetite of the invalid, whose stomach, however, very for-

unately for his complaint, was not disposed to this kind of delicacy. When his brother was about to return, Okotook took it into his head to send his son away with him, probably because he heard they had the day before killed two seals, which afforded better feeding than we had to give him: be this as it may, we were not sorry that he went, and the boy himself seemed no less pleased; for without playfellows or amusement of any kind, his time hung very heavily on his hands while he remained on board. It was amusing to see Okotook take a dose of physic for the first time in his life to-day. He knew its taste was not pleasant, but this was certainly not all that he dreaded; for before he put the cup to his lips with one hand, he held on by his wife with the other, and she by him with both hers, as though they expected an explosion, or some such catastrophe, as the immediate effect of the potion; nor did he venture to relinquish his hold till the taste began to leave his mouth. The quantity of water which he drank in the course of the four-and-twenty hours is

beyond conception, and the cabin fire could scarcely, by the melting of snow, furnish enough for their consumption. These people are extremely particular as to the purity of the water they drink. Some that had been melted in our steamer, and which I thought very good, neither of them would touch, or at least always spat out again. If the water was much above the temperature of 32° , they also disliked it, and immediately put snow into it to cool it down. Iligliuk, who came on board with one side of her hair loose, loosened the other also to-day, in consequence of her fancying Okotook worse, though it was only the annoyance of the blister that made him uneasy; for even in this sequestered corner of the globe dishevelled locks bespeak mourning. It was not, however, with her the mere semblance of grief, for she was really much distressed throughout the day, all our endeavours not availing to make her understand how one pain was to be removed by inflicting another.

Captain Lyon being desirous of having

some little clothes made as models of the Esquimaux costume, and thinking Iligliuk's present leisure afforded her a good opportunity of making them, had yesterday obtained her promise that she would do so. Okotook being now very much better, and she having herself resumed her usual gaiety in consequence, I pressed her to commence her work, and placed the skins before her, when she said that she could not do them here as she had no needles. These being supplied her, she now complained of having no *tōōktōo e-wāllōo* (rein-deer sinew), their usual thread. This difficulty, unfortunately for Iligliuk's credit, was as easily overcome as the other; and when scissors, pattern-clothes, and all the other requisites were laid before her, she was at length driven to the excuse that Okotook's illness would not permit her to do it. Seeing us half laughing at the absurdity of these excuses, and half angry at the selfish indolence which prompted them, she at last flatly asserted that Okotook desired her not to work, which, though we knew it to

be a falsehood, the latter did not deny. We then supposed that some superstition might be at the bottom of this; but having, a little while after, by way of experiment, thrown Iligliuk some loose beads upon the table, she eagerly employed herself for half-an-hour in stringing them that not one might be lost; which proved, that where her own gratification or interest were concerned, Okotook's illness was not suffered to interfere. This anecdote shows, in a strong light, that deep-rooted selfishness, which, in numberless instances, notwithstanding the superiority of Iligliuk's understanding, detracted from the amiability of her disposition. The fact was, that she did not feel inclined so far to exert herself as to comply with Captain Lyon's request; and the slight degree of gratitude and proper feeling, which was requisite to overcome that disinclination, was altogether wanting.

I have related this anecdote just as it occurred, with the hope of showing the true disposition of these people, and not with a view of unduly depreciating the cha-

racter of our friend Iligliuk. I am, however, compelled to acknowledge, that, in proportion as the superior understanding of this extraordinary woman became more and more developed, her head (for what female head is indifferent to praise?) began to be turned with the general attention and numberless presents she received. The superior decency and even modesty of her behaviour had combined, with her intellectual qualities, to raise her, in our estimation, far above her companions; and I often heard others express what I could not but agree in, that for Iligliuk alone, of all the Esquimaux women, that kind of respect could be entertained which modesty in a female never fails to command in our sex. Thus regarded, she had always been freely admitted into the ships, the quarter-masters at the gangway never thinking of refusing entrance to the 'wise woman' as they called her. Whenever any explanation was necessary between the Esquimaux and us, Iligliuk was sent for quite as an interpreter; information was chiefly obtained through her,

and she thus found herself rising into a degree of consequence to which, but for us, she could never have attained. Notwithstanding a more than ordinary share of good sense on her part, it will not therefore be wondered at if she became giddy with her exaltation, assuming certain airs, which, though infinitely diversified in their operation according to circumstances, perhaps universally attend a too sudden accession of good fortune in every child of Adam from the equator to the poles. The consequence was that Iligliuk was soon spoiled; considered her admission into the ships and most of the cabins no longer as an indulgence but a right; ceased to return the slightest acknowledgment for any kindness or presents; became listless and inattentive in unravelling the meaning of our questions, and careless whether her answers conveyed the information we desired. In short, Iligliuk in February and Iligliuk in April were confessedly very different persons; and it was at last amusing to recollect, though not very easy to persuade one's self, that th

woman, who now sat demurely in a chair, so confidently expecting the notice of those around her, and she, who had at first with eager and wild delight assisted in cutting snow for the building of a hut, and with the hope of obtaining a single needle, were actually one and the same individual.

Togolat came down to the ships to-day to see her brother Okotook; she was accompanied by Arnalooa, and on their arrival they were both sent for into the cabin. We observed, however, that they required an unusual degree of solicitation to make them go near Okotook, or even to the side of the cabin, where he lay concealed by a skreen; and after all, they remained in the opposite corner next the door; and, having talked freely to the invalid for some time, took their leave without seeing him. In the evening, after they were gone, we found that this unfortunate though well-intended visit was occasioning great distress to Okotook, who talked for two hours almost incessantly about 'Arnalooa's having seen him,' which, it seems, ought not to have

been the case. What misfortune was to be apprehended in consequence of this event we could not learn ; but he spoke of it in a kind of agony, and was evidently labouring under the influence of some powerful though absurd superstition respecting it. Towards night he suffered a dreadful bleeding at the nose, followed by much sickness at the stomach, which, together with the phantom of Arnalooa, which still haunted his imagination, combined to make him extremely unwell for some hours. The next day, however, he was free from complaint of any kind, and began once more to put on a smiling countenance.

The caulking of our bows being now completed, the ships were released from the ice by sawing round them ; an operation which caused them to rise in the water six inches and a half, in consequence of the increased buoyancy occasioned by the winter's expenditure.

CHAPTER IX.

Increased extent of open water in the offing—A travelling party despatched to the northward—Unsuccessful attempt to raise vegetables on shore—Decease of James Pringle—A party of Esquimaux build huts near the ships—Return of the travellers, and account of their journey—First appearance of the plants—Birds become numerous—Commence cutting a canal through the ice for liberating the ships—Illness and decease of John Reid and William Souter—Breaking-up of the ice in the bay—Account of Winter Island—Abstract of observations made there.

As there was an increased extent of open water in the offing, and the weather being now, to all appearance, tolerably settled, I determined on sending away our travelling party under Captain Lyon. It consisted of Lieutenant Palmer, five seamen, and three marines, the whole being victualled for twenty days, and furnished with a tent,

fuel, and every other convenience of which such a journey would admit. The baggage was placed on light sledges, resembling those used by Captain Franklin on his late journey to the shores of the Polar Sea, made out of staves shaved thin, six feet eight inches long, fourteen inches broad, and turned up before. Being secured entirely with thongs of hide sunk by grooves into the wood to keep them from wearing, they were perfectly flexible, so as to be in no danger of breaking on uneven ground. It is astonishing to see with what ease such a sledge is dragged along, the friction of so considerable a surface being more than compensated by its passing over the snow without sinking. Each individual of the party was furnished with one of these, which also served to sleep and sit upon; the weight dragged by each of the men being about one hundred and twenty pounds, and that of the officers from ninety to ninety-five. Each person had also a pair of snow-shoes, a deer-skin jacket and boots for sleeping in, and another pair of boots of water-tight seal-skin.

The general tenor of Captain Lyon's instructions was, 'after crossing to the continent, to proceed along that coast to the northward, carefully examining any bend or inlet he might meet with, so as to leave no doubt, if possible, of its actual extent and communications, thereby preventing the necessity of the ships entering it on their arrival there.' I added also, the necessary directions for remarking every thing of interest relating to the tides, and the natural productions of the country; and I limited Captain Lyon to the end of the month in returning, to avoid the possibility of detaining the Expedition.

Their preparations being completed, our travellers left the ships under a salute of three cheers from both the crews, and accompanied by a large party of officers and men to assist them for the first few hours. A day or two after their departure, a supply of provisions was lodged at the garden, according to a plan previously agreed on, in case of our being forced out to sea with the ice before their return. Arrangements were

also made for putting an officer and two men on shore as a guard to this as well as to the clock, tent, or any other articles that might be left behind, in the event of an occurrence of this nature.

It now became too evident that the climate with which our gardeners had to contend, would not allow them to furnish us with many ounces of vegetable substance, in any reasonable time to which our stay here might be prolonged. A register-thermometer left for four-and-twenty hours under the glasses of the beds (they can scarcely be called *hot-beds*) ranged from 25° to 100° , the frames being closely covered with Russia mats after sunset. The only water we could procure for the seeds was by melting snow; and it would have made a horticulturist smile to see a fire of turf made daily at our garden for this purpose. The snow-drift too had not yet ceased to be an additional annoyance, half a day's labour being sometimes required after the snow had ceased, to admit the sun's rays by removing it from the frames.

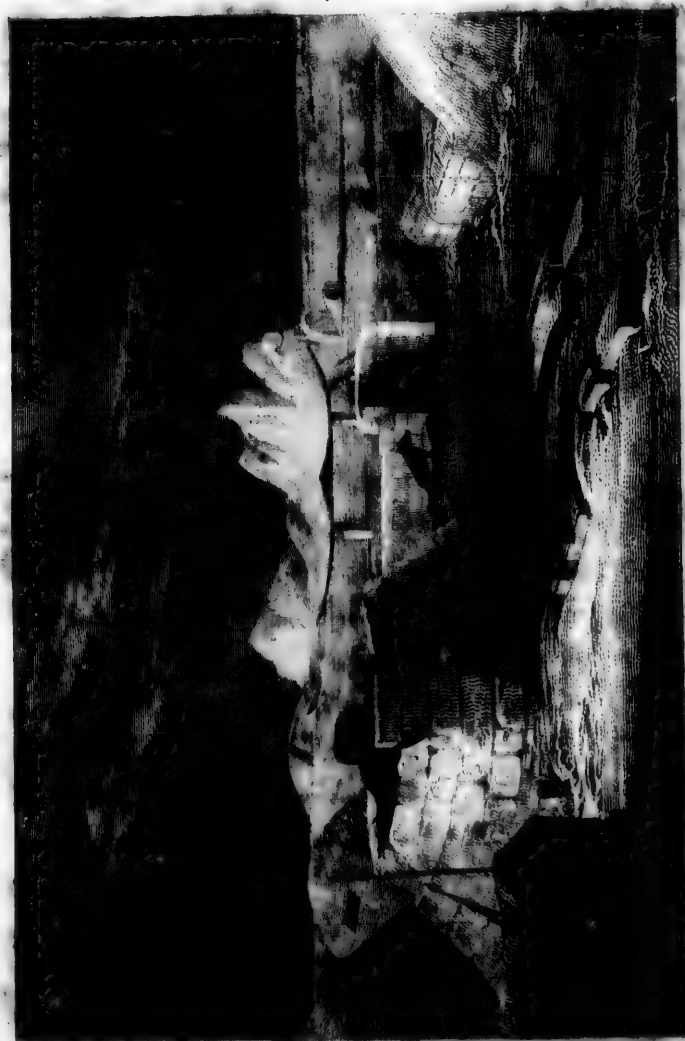
On the 13th, at noon, the thermometer, in the sun, stood at 55° , that in the shade being at 27° . At seven in the evening, the electrometer was tried in the usual manner, without any effect being perceptible on the gold leaf. On the following evening, when the wind had backed to the southward, and the sky was overcast with clouds, it was again tried with no greater success, and the chain was now removed from the mast-head, the ships being nearly ready for sea.

In the course of the forenoon of the 15th, a message to our medical gentlemen announced the fall of James Pringle, one of the seamen of the Hecla, from her mizen-top-mast head to the deck; and in a few minutes after I was much shocked in receiving Lieutenant Hoppner's report of his death, no sign of life having indeed appeared in him from the first moment after his fall. On examination it was found that the base of the skull was fractured, and the neck also dislocated. A grave was directed to be dug near the observatory, and arrangements

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Drawn by C. G. L. 1851

RESERVATE BUILDING A SNOW HUT.

Published Jan 1851 by John Murray, London.

were made for the funeral taking place on the following Sunday.

On the 16th, Ewerat, with his wife and family, arrived at the ships, bringing with them all their goods and chattels, and with the intention of taking up their abode upon the ice near us. They accordingly built their hut about a hundred yards from the Fury's stern, but whether with the view of living upon us, or the seals that frequent the bay, we were at first at a loss to conjecture. Ewerat's household consisted not only of his own family, but also of Appokiuk and Itkamuk, the former of whom having no husband, and the latter no relative, they both seemed to be fairly 'on the parish.' Besides this establishment, a second, on a smaller scale, also made its appearance in our neighbourhood, consisting of a very little man named *Koo-il-li-ti-uk*, nick-named by the sailors 'John Bull,' and his pretty little wife *Arnalōōa*, whose zeal in bringing up her husband's share of the sea-horses I have before described. These persons, being eight in number, had determined on

travelling to Amitioke for the ensuing summer, influenced, probably, in some degree, by the hope of falling in with us again, as they knew that we were going in that direction. Be this, however, as it may, it was soon evident that they intended making the most of us while we remained neighbours; for on the 17th, though the weather was favourable, and they had no food of their own, they made no effort to procure any, except from the ships, to which the women brought their *ootkooseeks* for bread-dust. Though I objected to encouraging this, and told them we should give them nothing if they did not also labour for themselves, they were all such favourites with our people, that I believe they found it answer very well; contriving not only to get plenty of food, but also a number of useful presents. They made, indeed, some return for this, by the usual barter of mittens, of which our people were now furnished with an abundant supply.

A great deal of snow fell in the course of the last two days, and our unfortunate

gardens were once more buried beneath it. On the evening of the 16th, something like small rain was falling for a few minutes, being the first we had seen this season : but it soon assumed the less equivocal form of sleet, the thermometer being at 31° .

18th.—The observations on the rise and fall of the tide had been constantly made and registered throughout the winter, and were continued till the ships were ready for sea. This part of the phenomenon we were, therefore, well acquainted with, and had found it very regular. In the *set* of the tides, however, (the most perplexing question, in my opinion, which a navigator in an unknown sea has to solve,) we found much greater difficulty to obtain the desired information. The sea having been occasionally open for days together, it could not be said that, even during the winter, opportunities did not occur of settling this point—at least, of making observations on the direction of the current, with reference to the times of high and low water by the shore. Notwithstanding this, however, it was im-

possible to discover from our register any thing like that regularity in the set of the stream which, with so considerable a rise of tide, (amounting at the equinox to nearly sixteen feet,) is observed in other parts of the world. Our former experience had, indeed, taught us to expect that some irregularity would be produced by the influence of the winds, which here, in a degree unknown in any but the icy seas, tend immediately to produce a superficial current in the water, and, consequently, to set in motion any floating body, by which a mark may be taken, in order to observe the direction of the stream. Even this, however, did not seem sufficient to account for the singular fact, that frequently, for twenty hours out of the four-and-twenty, the stream set to the southward, even against a breeze from that quarter, though, of course, more decidedly so when the wind was northerly. The only way, therefore, in which we could venture upon any conclusion as to the true direction of the flood-tide, was from the circumstance of the stream generally setting

to the southward at a rate somewhat less rapid upon the ebb than on the flood, by which it appeared that the latter came from the northward.

On the 19th, after an impressive sermon delivered by Mr. Fisher, the last mournful duties were performed over the remains of our deceased shipmate. The procession consisted of all the seamen, marines, and officers of both ships, and the ensigns and pendants remained lowered during the rest of a day distinguished to us by this sad event. Nothing worthy of notice occurred till the evening of the 21st, when soon after eight o'clock, Captain Lyon and his party were seen on their return over the hills, and, being met by a number of the officers and men from the ships, arrived on board before ten, when I was happy to find our travellers in good health, excepting a little snow-blindness and 'foot-foudering,' of which they soon recovered. The result of this journey of Captain Lyon's served to excite very reasonable hopes that he had seen the north-eastern extreme of the great peninsula,

round which we entertained the most sanguine expectations of shortly finding the desired passage into the Polar Sea.

On the 23d, our neighbours the Esquimaux, who had long, by their own account, been setting off for Amitioke, at length began in earnest to pack up for their departure. As soon as their preparations were finished, I sent for them all on board, and gave them one of their own sledges, of which they were much in want, for carrying their goods, a couple of boarding-pikes, some knives, and several tin canisters filled with bread-dust, for their journey. These presents had scarcely been made them, when we had reason to apprehend so sudden an influx of wealth might produce serious effects, especially upon the women, whose joy threw them into immoderate fits of laughter, almost amounting to hysterics, which were succeeded by a flood of tears. The men seemed thankful, though less noisy in the expression of their acknowledgments. As soon as some degree of composure was restored, we accompanied them to their bag-

gage, which they had stowed on two of the small travelling sledges given them by Captain Lyon, but which they now shifted to their own. When all was ready, and some other valuable presents had been added to their stock by Captain Lyon, they proceeded to the northward, the women assisting to drag the sledge, for they had only one large dog and one puppy. On taking their departure, these good-humoured and ever-cheerful people greeted us with three cheers in the true Kabloona style, a mode of salutation they had witnessed once or twice among us, and frequently practised for their amusement and ours. On the 24th, we found they had only proceeded a few miles, as 'John Bull' once more made his appearance on board, and returned to his companions in the evening. From this specimen of their travelling, of which we had as yet little experience, we had great reason to hope that their days' journies would be found but short ones, and that therefore our distance round the north-eastern point of the American continent was not very con-

siderable. The snow felt softer, and more melting was going on to-day than on any before observed, though only a few black tips of the rocks were yet visible on shore. The animals now began to appear in greater numbers ; for on the 25th, a flock of nearly two hundred long-tailed ducks were swimming about in the open water to the south-east of the point. Some of the Esquimaux who came from the nearest western village also reported having seen a great many rein-deer ; but they had not yet succeeded in killing any.

At the close of the month of May it was a matter of general observation, and of course of general regret, how few symptoms of thawing had yet appeared, either on shore or on the ice. Naturally pursuing our usual comparison with the circumstances of the former winter passed in these regions, it was impossible not to recollect that Melville Island had, on the same day two years before, advanced full as far as the country now before us in throwing off its winter covering. The parts of the land which

were now the most bare were the smooth round tops of the hills, on which here and there occurred a little pool of water, from which, taking all together within half a mile round the ships, we should at this time have had great difficulty in filling half a tun. There were also on the lower lands a few dark uncovered patches, looking, when viewed from the hills, like islets in an extensive sea. Vegetation seemed labouring to commence, and a few tufts of the *saxifraga oppositifolia*, when closely examined, discovered some signs of life. A botanist, in short, might have considered vegetation as begun, but in the popular acceptance of the word it certainly had not. Such was the state of things on shore at the conclusion of the month of May. Upon the ice appearances were not more promising. Except in the immediate neighbourhood of the ships, where, from the constant trampling, and the laying of various stores upon the ice, some heat had artificially been absorbed, it would have been difficult to point out in what respect any advances towards dissolu-

tion had been made upon the upper surface, where six or seven inches of snow yet remained in every part. Here, again, without any undue partiality for our old winter-quarters, it was natural as well as reasonable to bear in mind, that before this time we had there experienced several hours of hard rain, than which nothing proves more effectual in dissolving the ice. The consequence was, that for the last week in May, at Melville Island, the surface of the ice had assumed quite a green appearance; while here it was still as white as a covering of snow could make it.

Under these circumstances I came to the determination, now that the ships were ready for sea, to try what could be effected towards their release, by sawing and cutting the ice; for it was vexatious to see open water daily in the offing, and not to be able to take advantage of it. Arrangements were therefore made for getting every thing, except the tent and instruments, on board the next day, and for commencing this more laborious occupation on the following Monday.

We were not the only inhabitants of these regions that seemed to think it high time for the summer to have arrived, for there was to-day quite a general muster of the birds about the island. A great many ducks and silvery gulls, two swans, two pair of ring-plovers, several ravens and grouse were seen, besides the usual flocks of the cheerful little snow-buntings. Mr. Ross killed a raven and a pair of grouse; the former of these was quite black, and one of the latter, a female bird, had a few speckled feathers on each wing, the tail being black near the tip. Captain Lyon was out for several hours with his gun, and met with eight rein-deer, but found them too wild to be approached. The thermometer got up to 41° in the warmest part of the day, but remained so high as this only for a short time, a light breeze of wind immediately bringing it down to 35° .

On the 1st of June, having launched a boat at the mouth of the bay, I went to sound in that neighbourhood and along the eastern side of the island, preparatory to

marking out the intended canal. We now found that the heavy ice at the entrance of the bay, on its south-east side, was aground on rocks, having on them in several parts only seventeen feet water at low tide; and in one place, which till now had been covered by the ice and snow, the gneiss peeped above the surface at half-ebb. On the eastern side of the island, along which we rowed two or three miles, the soundings are regular and deep in most places near the shore. A good deal of ice still remained attached to the land; but as far as we could distinguish to the N.N.E. there was a lane of clear water wide enough for the navigation of the ships. We met with large flocks of king, eider, and long-tailed ducks, the two former species having made their appearance only a day or two before. From this time we generally procured a few ducks daily for the use of the ships, the whole being served in lieu of other meat, according to the 'game-laws' already established. We saw besides numbers of the *larus argentatus*, and at the mouth of the bay, in seven

fathoms water, a fish, supposed to be a salmon, three feet long, swimming near the bottom. The clearness of the water here allowed the rocks at the bottom to be plainly distinguished at that depth.

On the 2d, at three P.M., a thin white cloud was observed to extend across the northern sky, from north-east to south-west, being then about 65° high in the centre. The whole of the heavens to the southward of this was covered with a similar kind of cloud, that to the northward exhibiting a clear blue sky. The edge, which was well defined, formed a very perfect arch, and here the cloud was much more dense than in any other place, reminding one of a veil of gauze, of which there were more folds in that part than elsewhere. Though the wind was with us at W.b.N., it blew gently over to the S.S.E., still retaining its perfect and continuous arch-like form at the margin. In a quarter of an hour it had got 20° on the south side of the zenith, in forty minutes was only 25° high, and in an hour and a quarter had totally disappeared beneath the

southern horizon, leaving the whole of the heavens perfectly cloudless. This was the most striking phenomenon of the kind we had ever witnessed, and while the arch remained near the zenith this magnificent canopy had a singularly grand and imposing appearance.

On the morning of the 3rd, at six A.M. both the ships' companies, under their respective officers, were set to work upon the ice. A line was accurately marked out from each of the Fury's quarters, where they were fifty feet apart, diverging to two hundred and fifty at the edge of the floe, the latter being distant from the ships two thousand and twenty feet, or just one-third of a nautical mile. It was proposed to make a cut through the ice with the saws, along the two lines thus marked out, and then a transverse section here and there, the divergency of the sides being intended to facilitate the removal of the pieces thus detached, by first pulling them out with strong purchases, and then floating them down the canal to the sea without. Nothing could

exceed the alacrity with which this laborious work was undertaken, and continued daily from six in the morning till eight at night, with the intermission only of meal-times: nor could anything be more lively and interesting than the scene which now presented itself to an observer on the south-east point. The day was beautifully clear, the sea open as far as the eye could stretch to the northward, and the 'busy hum' of our people's voices could at times be heard mingling with the cheerful, though fantastic songs with which the Greenland sailors are accustomed at once to beguile their labour, and to keep the necessary time in the action of sawing the ice. The whole prospect, together with the hopes and associations excited by it, was, to persons cooped up as we had been, exhilarating beyond conception.

In the course of the first week we had completed the two side cuts, and also two shorter ones in the space between the ships; making in all a length of two thousand three hundred feet on each side of the intended canal, the thickness of the ice being

in general four feet, but in one or two places (where the junction of the sea-ice with the bay-floe occasioned some squeezing) above ten feet and a half, scarcely allowing our longest saws to work. Laborious as this part of the operation had been, we soon found it likely to prove the least troublesome of the whole; for on endeavouring to pull out the pieces in the manner at first intended, every effort failed, till at length we were reduced to the necessity of cutting each block diagonally before it could be moved from its place. After a week's experience, we also learned that much time had been lost in completing the whole of the lateral cuts at once; for these, partly from frost, and partly by the closing together of the sides of the canal, all required sawing a second and in some places even a third time. It was surprising also to see how powerful a resistance was occasioned by the 'sludge' produced in sawing, or as the sailors called it, the 'saw-dust,' continuing in the cut and appearing to act like oil interposed between two plates of glass,

in keeping the masses united. In some cases also, a saw was squeezed so tight by the pressure of the ice in the cut, that it became necessary to enter a second in order to release it, by sawing out a circular plug of ice completely round it. Fatiguing as this work proved to the men, I directed it to be continued to-day, the sea remaining so open on the outside as to give every encouragement to our exertions.

While we were thus making trial of what art could effect towards our release, nature seemed to be more than usually tardy in rendering her assistance. The snow was still leaving the land by very slow degrees, and some small rain fell for a short time on the 7th, but the mean temperature of the twenty-four hours seldom rose above the freezing point. So small, indeed, was the quantity of water now to be obtained on shore, that, being apprehensive of actually going to sea without any in the holds, each ship commenced melting snow in her coppers for filling the tanks, the crews being necessarily put on an allowance till this was

somewhat advanced. The first flower of the *saxifraga oppositifolia* was brought on board as a matter of curiosity by our botanists, on the 9th, or *one day later* than it made its appearance at Melville Island in 1820.

One of our people, in walking over the island, met with a swan's nest, which Captain Lyon went out to see and made a drawing of it. It was built of moss-peat, being no less than five feet ten inches in length, four feet nine inches wide, and two feet deep. The hole of entrance in the top was eighteen inches wide. Two eggs, each weighing about eight ounces, were found in the nest, in which the old birds were also sitting at first, but too wild to be approached. The eggs are of a cream or brownish white colour, in some parts a little clouded by a darker tinge. The female subsequently laid a third egg, and soon afterwards both birds appeared to have wholly deserted the nest.

In the second week our progress with the canal had been considerable, it being now

completed within two hundred yards of the Fury's stern. As the men had continued this cold and wet work without intermission for thirteen days together, they were now allowed a half holiday, of which they began to stand in need. Several patients, as might have been expected, had been added to the sick lists of both ships; but by timely and skilful attention the complaints had hitherto been overcome. The opening we had already made in the ice now rendered it so much weaker, and, consequently, so much more liable to disruption than before, that I considered it prudent to remove the tent, observatory, and instruments on board, as we might at any time have been forced to sea without a moment's warning. Mr. Fisher, therefore, having completed the desired observations, everything was re-embarked except the transit instrument and meridian mark, these being left to the last for continuing the determination of the rates of the chronometers. Among the things now brought on board were the garden-frames, from which about four pounds of

wretched pea-leaves, and mustard and cress, had been produced in each garden, by dint of nine weeks' labour and attention.

At the conclusion of the day's labour on the 19th, we had every prospect of getting to sea in forty-eight hours more; but early on the following morning, when the ebb, or north-easterly tide had made, and was assisted by a breeze from the southward, the whole body of sea-ice came forcibly in contact with the bay-floe; which was now so weakened by our cutting, as to split the whole way from the edge up to the Hecla's stern, a little to the westward of the canal, the latter being almost immediately closed with a considerable crush, but without affecting the ships which lay beyond it. The closing of our artificial canal had the effect of partially opening a natural one at the place where the ice had just been detached; but as this was incomplete, coming gradually up to a point astern of the Hecla, we were at a loss to know on which of the two our labour would best be employed. An attempt was first made by four strong pur-

chases, stretched from side to side across the new crack, to pull the parts together again, and thus to leave our original canal *in statu quo*. All our power, however, being insufficient to accomplish this, we commenced with the saws upon the upper part of the crack, with the intention of widening it sufficiently for the passage of the ships. In this work we had made considerable progress when, towards evening, it was perceived that *this* was now closing, and our former canal re-opening by the action of the wind and tide. Relinquishing our last attempt, therefore, we lost no time in floating some heavy pieces of ice into the canal, to serve as wedges for keeping the sides apart, in case of any fresh pressure from without again disposing them to close.

The fog still continued and some heavy rain fell at night, both of which made a striking alteration in the appearance of the land and ice. The snow which was before hard enough to bear a man in walking, now allowed him to sink almost to the middle;

and after this time the water was very abundant on shore, occurring in numerous small streams and ponds in almost every part.

At two A.M. on the 21st, the piece of the floe which formed the separation between the two canals drifted bodily outwards, as far as the rocks at the mouth of the bay and the ice that lay upon them would permit, taking with it a heavy-grounded mass that lay near the Hecla, and on which it had before been turning as on a pile or pivot: shortly after a second mass on the eastern side of the canal broke off, the separation taking place upon the line where the ice had been weakened by the sand we had laid upon it. Our work was now at an end, and we had only to wait for a northerly or westerly wind to release us from our present 'besetment,' for, in fact, it was now nothing more. Directions were therefore given for closely watching the motion of the ice, both from the ships as well as by regular visits to the shore, at the end of every watch.

It now becomes my painful duty to turn from these busy occupations, where anima-

tion, cheerfulness, and hope prevailed, to the sad and solemn scenes of sickness and death; for, with both of these did it please the Almighty to visit us at this period! William Souter, quarter-master of the *Fury*, who, in the early part of this week, had complained of a slight sickness at the stomach, and having been quite relieved, was in consequence discharged to duty, was again, on the morning of the 21st, affected in a similar manner while on deck. Mr. Ross, observing that he was unwell, desired him to go below, to which at first Souter objected, saying that it would soon go off; but Mr. Ross very properly, in compliance with my general orders on this head, insisted on his going to Mr. Skeoch. He was soon relieved by the treatment which Mr. Edwards adopted, and continued well till the night of the 22d, when some dangerous symptoms having appeared and continued for several hours, Mr. Fisher, of the *Hecla*, was on the following day called in on a consultation. In the evening of the 23d, the symptoms once more appeared to as-

sume a less threatening aspect, and a hope was indulged that no inflammation in the bowels had yet taken place, which there had before been great reason to apprehend. As the ship was ready for sea, and no work of any consequence remained to be done, every thing was kept as quiet as possible on board, that the patient might suffer no disturbance. On the 24th, Souter's alarming symptoms had so much subsided, that increasing hopes were entertained of his continuing to do well. These flattering appearances, however, received a sudden check about noon on the 25th, after which time he began rapidly, though gradually to droop, and between six and seven in the evening breathed his last.

The impossibility of removing Souter from the sick bay, after the last alarming change took place, rendered his death, or rather the convulsive struggles which for some hours preceded that event, a dreadful trial to poor Reid, whose state had for some time past been scarcely better, the difficulty in his breathing having increased

to a most distressing degree. Worn out as he was by bodily suffering and extreme debility, it is probable that the depression of spirits occasioned by Souter's death served to hasten his own dissolution, which took place about the same hour the following evening. The slow degrees by which Reid's death had been long approaching, had served in some measure to prepare his mind for that awful event, though, like other consumptive persons, he would sometimes entertain very sanguine hopes of his recovery, and this he continued to do till about the time of Souter's illness. When Souter was dying, Reid remarked that he should not be long after him; and on the 26th, when Mr. Fisher had attended and prayed with him, he said that he should go at one bell (half-past six), and then enumerated all his clothes to one of the men, who, at his request, wrote them down for him. After four o'clock he did not speak, and gradually sinking expired at the time he had mentioned.

On the 28th, the remains of our deceased

shipmates were committed to the earth, with every solemnity that so mournful an occasion demanded. They were interred in one grave, on a rising ground a few hundred yards from the sea to the north-eastward of the ships. A handsome tomb of stone and mortar was built over the spot, having, at one end, a stone let in, with the usual information engraved on it. The sides were plastered with a kind of viscous clay found in one of the ponds, and the top covered with tufts of the purple saxifrage. The duties of the ships now permitting it, Captain Lyon employed his men in building a similar tomb over the grave of Pringle.

Scarcely had these melancholy duties been performed, when the wind, which had been stationary at south for several hours, began to veer a little to the westward, and the weather gradually to clear up; and, by six P.M., a fresh breeze blew from the W.S.W., so that we had now every reason to expect an almost immediate opening of the ice. It is remarkable, that previous to this change the winds had been almost con-

stantly between the S.E. and E.N.E. for ten days; a circumstance we had never before experienced in these seas, and which certainly produced more melting than a period of two months would have done with the wind to the northward and westward. The alteration which the surface of the land had undergone in this interval is indeed almost inconceivable, except to those who have experienced the rapidity with which such changes do take place, when once they fairly begin in these regions. The whole aspect of the island was so thoroughly metamorphosed, in consequence of the disappearance of the snow, that the very spots on which we had been in the frequent habit of walking for the last nine months, could now scarcely be recognised; and I believe not one among us, if removed from Winter Island in May and brought back in July, would, from the mere aspect of the land, have very easily discovered the scene of our winter's rambles.

Previously to leaving our present winter-quarters, I shall remark that Winter Island

is ten miles and a half in length from N.W.b.N. to S.E.b.S., and its average breadth from eight to ten miles. It is what seamen call rather low land; the height of the S.E. point, which I named CAPE FISHER, out of respect to our chaplain and astronomer, being seventy-six feet, and none of the hills above three times that height. The outline of the land is smooth, and in the summer, when free from snow, presents a brown appearance. Several miles of the north-west end of the island are so low and level, that, when the snow lay thick upon it, our travellers could only distinguish it from the sea by the absence of hummocks of ice.

CHAPTER X.

Departure from Winter Island—Meet with some Esquimaux travelling to the northward—Obstructions and danger from the ice and tides—Discovery of the Barrow River, and its fall—Favourable passage to the northward—Arrival off the strait of the Fury and Hecla—Progress opposed by a fixed barrier of ice—Communicate with the natives of Igloodik—Unsuccessful attempts to get between the ice and the land—Land upon the Calthorpe Islands—the Fury drifted by the ice between two islands—Account of a journey performed in sledges up an inlet to the westward.

THE gale, which had for some time been blowing from the northward, veered to the N.W.b.W., and increased in strength on the 1st of July, which soon began to produce the effect of drifting the ice off the land. In the course of the day, a wide lane of water was thus opened to the eastward of the island, but the weather was too incle-

ment to think of moving the ships. The wind continued to blow very hard during the night, with snow and sleet, but began to moderate about four A.M. on the 2d. At six o'clock, the report from the hill being favourable, and the wind and weather now also sufficiently so, we moved out of our winter's dock, which was indeed in part broken to pieces by the swell that had lately set into the bay. At seven we made sail, with a fresh breeze from W.N.W., and having cleared the rocks at the entrance of the bay, ran quickly to the northward and eastward. At noon we had Adderley's Bluff due north of us, distant eight miles, and from Captain Lyon's chart and description easily recognised Point Elizabeth beyond it. We now found that the land was completely lined with ice, extending, in most places, from two to five miles to seaward, and apparently attached to the shores as firmly as any we had seen. The part next the land, consisting of a strip one or two miles in width, was smooth and level, and covered with numerous ponds of water,

all which showed it to have been of the last winter's formation. The outer band of ice was of the 'hummocky' kind, which I have shown to be produced by external pressure, or by the cementing together of a number of broken masses left in the autumn by the succeeding winter's frost. The ice in the offing was also of the latter kind, and drifting rapidly about with the tides, leaving us a navigable channel varying in width from two miles to three or four hundred yards.

The ice remained close till half-past four A.M. on the 3d, when, after having sent a boat to sound, we cast off and ran along the margin of the floe. In an hour and a half we were obliged again to make fast, to allow a stream of ice to drift past us with the tide, after which we once more pushed forward for a short time.

The closeness of the ice again obliging us to make fast, we soon after perceived a party of people with a sledge upon the land-floe. I therefore sent Mr. Bushnan with some of our men to meet them and to

bring them on board, being desirous of ascertaining whereabouts, according to their geography, we now were. We found the party to consist, as we expected, of those who had taken leave of us forty days before, on their departure to the northward, and who now readily accompanied our people to the ships; leaving only Togolat's idiot-boy by the sledge, tying him to a dog and the dog to the ice. As soon as they came under the bows, they halted in a line, and, according to their former promise, gave three cheers, which salutation a few of us on the forecastle did not fail to return. As soon as they got on board they expressed extreme joy at seeing us again, repeated each of our names with great earnestness, and were indeed much gratified by this unexpected rencontre. Ewerat being now mounted on the plank which goes across the gunwales of our ships for conning them conveniently among the ice, explained in a very clear and pilot-like manner, that the island which we observed to lie off Cape Wilson was that marked by Iligliuk in one of her charts,

and there called *Awlikteewik*, pronounced by Ewerat *Ow-tittē-week*. On asking how many days' journey it was still to Amitioke, they all agreed in saying ten ; and back to Winter Island *oonōōktoot* (a great many), so that we had good reason to hope we were not far from the former place. I may at once remark, however, that great caution is requisite in judging of the information these people give of the distances from one place to another, as expressed by the number of *seēniks* (sleeps) or days' journies, to which in other countries a definite value is affixed. No two Esquimaux will give the same account in this respect, though each is equally desirous of furnishing correct information ; for besides their deficiency as arithmeticians, which renders the enumeration of ten a labour, and of fifteen almost an impossibility to many of them, each individual forms his idea of the distance according to the season of the year, and, consequently, the mode of travelling in which his own journey has been performed. Instances of this kind will be observed in

the charts of the Esquimaux, in which they not only differ from each other in this respect, but the same individual differs from himself at different times. It is only, therefore, by a careful comparison of the various accounts, and by making allowance for the different circumstances under which the journies have been made, that these apparent inconsistencies can be reconciled, and an approximation to the truth obtained.

Many of our officers and men cordially greeted these poor people as old acquaintance they were glad to see again, and they were loaded as usual with numerous presents, of which the only danger to be apprehended was lest they should go mad on account of them. The women screamed in a convulsive manner at everything they received, and cried for five minutes together with the excess of their joy; and to the honour of 'John Bull,' be it recorded, he sent by one of the men as he left the ship a piece of seal-skin, as a present to *Parree*, being the first offering of real gratitude, and without any expectation of return, that

I had ever received from any of them. I never saw them express more surprise than on being assured that we had left Winter Island only a single day; a circumstance which might well excite their wonder, considering that they had themselves been above forty in reaching our present station. They had obtained one rein-deer, and had now a large seal on their sledge, to which we added a quantity of bread-dust that seemed acceptable enough to them. As our way lay in the same direction as theirs, I would gladly have taken their whole establishment on board the ships to convey them to Amittioke, but for the uncertain nature of this navigation, which might eventually have put it out of my power to land them at the precise place of their destination. The ice again opening, we were now obliged to dismiss them after half an hour's visit, when, having run to the Hecla's bows to see Captain Lyon and his people, they returned to their sledge as fast as their loads of presents would allow them.

We continued our progress northward,

contending with the flood-tide and the drifting masses of ice; and the difficulties of such a navigation may be conceived from the following description of what happened to us on the 9th.

At half-past eight on the morning of the 9th, a considerable space of open water being left to the northward of us by the ice that had broken off the preceding night, I left the *Fury* in a boat for the purpose of sounding along the shore in that direction, in readiness for moving whenever the *Hecla* should be enabled to rejoin us. I found the soundings regular in almost every part, and had just landed to obtain a view from an eminence, when I was recalled by a signal from the *Fury*, appointed to inform me of the approach of any ice. On my return, I found the external body once more in rapid motion to the southward with the flood-tide, and assuming its usual threatening appearance. For an hour or two the *Fury* was continually grazed, and sometimes heeled over by a degree of pressure which, under any other circumstances, would

not have been considered a moderate one, but which the last two or three days' navigation had taught us to disregard, when compared with what we had reason almost every moment to expect. A little before noon a heavy floe, some miles in length, being probably a part of that lately detached from the shore, came driving down fast towards us, giving us serious reason to apprehend some more fatal catastrophe than any we had yet encountered. In a few minutes it came in contact, at the rate of a mile and a half an hour, with a point of the land-ice left the preceding night by its own separation, breaking it up with a tremendous crash, and forcing numberless immense masses, perhaps many tons in weight, to the height of fifty or sixty feet, from whence they again rolled down on the inner or land side, and were quickly succeeded by a fresh supply. While we were obliged to be quiet spectators of this grand but terrific sight, being within five or six hundred yards of the point, the danger to ourselves was twofold; first, lest the floe should now swing

in, and serve us much in the same manner; and secondly, lest its pressure should detach the land ice to which we were secured, and thus set us adrift and at the mercy of the tides. Happily, however, neither of these occurred, the floe remaining stationary for the rest of the tide, and setting off with the ebb which made soon after. In the meanwhile the Hecla had been enabled to get under sail, and was making considerable progress towards us, which determined me to move the Fury as soon as possible from her present situation into the bight I had sounded in the morning; where we made fast in five and a half fathoms alongside some very heavy grounded ice, one third of a mile from a point of land lying next to the northward of Cape Wilson, and which is low for a short distance next the sea. At nine o'clock a large mass of ice fell off the land-floe and struck our stern; and a 'calf' lying under it, having lost its superincumbent weight, rose to the surface with considerable force, lifting our rudder violently in its passage, but doing no material injury.

Early in the morning of the 10th, the breeze having freshened up from the S.S.W., the prospect to the northward was truly gratifying; and at fifteen minutes after one A.M., when the Hecla had nearly joined us, we made all sail along shore, soon deepening the water to twenty fathoms, and afterwards to thirty-five, no bottom, at a distance of a mile and three-quarters from the land. Very little snow was now lying upon the ground, and numerous streams of water rushing down the hills, and sparkling in the beams of the morning sun, relieved in some measure the melancholy stillness which otherwise reigned on this desolate shore. At three A.M., we had sailed as near the end of the open water as we could safely venture, though in a sea without so strong a tide-way we might still, perhaps, have threaded a passage through the ice some miles farther. Here, however, it was indispensably necessary, if possible, to secure the ships before the strength of the flood-tide should come on, and we accordingly hauled in-shore for that purpose. The land

along which we had been sailing was that from which the ice had been principally detached, so that we had doubts of finding either the means of holding fast or any security from driving on shore. On sending the boats to examine the soundings, however, both were fortunately discovered, there being abreast of the ships a number of heavy insulated masses of ice lying aground*, with small but sufficient patches of the land-floe within them still adhering to the beach. We here made fast in six fathoms, about a hundred yards from the shore, and were not sorry to obtain a little rest, as well as a temporary cessation from anxiety respecting the immediate safety of the ships. It was low water by the shore at fifty minutes past nine A.M., having fallen two feet in one hour and ten minutes.

After noon, we landed to take a walk; a number of rein-deer were seen, but they

* These for distinction's sake we were in the habit of calling 'bergs,' though we saw none of the immense bodies properly so called, after reaching about the middle of Hudson's Strait.

proved too wild for us, and birds were unusually scarce. Captain Lyon picked up an Esquimaux lamp, curious on account of its being made of two pieces of red granite firmly cemented together, instead of pot-stone, as usual.

At high water this evening, which took place at four P.M., the berg on which our chief dependence was placed for security from external pressure, rolled completely over, but still held fast on the ground. By the swell thus occasioned, a disruption of some of the land-ice also took place, which for some time threatened to carry us adrift. At the same time, a heavy floe coming in, promoted by its pressure this unwelcome disturbance, and releasing a 'calf' under the Fury's stern, made it rise with considerable violence against her counter. The stream-cable was now fastened round the berg, as the only remaining security against our being forced on shore, should the land-ice wholly desert us; but the water falling from this time gave us some hours' respite.

The northerly breeze kept the ice moving

to the southward during the whole of the ebb-tide, as had been so often remarked before, showing how weak the stream of that tide is on this coast, comparatively with the other, and the consequent necessity of holding on somewhere or other at all risks, when the state of the ice does not admit of making any progress to the northward. If the safety of a ship were alone to be consulted, it would undoubtedly answer that purpose most effectually to let her float about among the loose ice in the offing; but a very few days' drift would in this case carry her to Southampton Island, and the labour of weeks thus be inevitably lost.

On the 12th, observing an opening in the land, like a river, I left the ship in a boat to examine the soundings of the coast. On approaching the opening, we found so strong a current setting out of it, as to induce me to taste the water, which proved scarcely brackish; and a little closer in, perfectly fresh, though the depth was from fourteen to fifteen fathoms. As this stream was a sufficient security against any ice coming

in, I determined to anchor the ships somewhere in its neighbourhood; and having laid down a buoy in twelve fathoms, off the north point of the entrance, returned on board, when I found all the boats a-head endeavouring to tow the ships in-shore. This could be effected, however, only by getting them across the stream of the inlet to the northern shore; and here, finding some land-ice, the ships were secured late at night, after several hours of extreme labour to the people in the boats.

On the morning of the 13th, the ice being still close in with the land just to the northward of us, I determined on examining the supposed river in the boats, and at the same time to try our luck with the seines, as the place appeared a likely one for salmon. Accompanied by several of the officers, therefore, as well as by Captain Lyon in his own boat, I left the *Fury* at half-past eight A.M., and was soon followed by a second boat from each ship. Immediately on opening the inlet we encountered a rapid current setting outwards, and after rowing a mile

and a half to the N.W.b.W., the breadth of the stream varying from one-third of a mile to four or five hundred yards, came to some shoal water extending quite across. Landing on the south shore and hauling the boats up above high-water mark, we rambled up the banks of the stream, which are low next the water, but rise almost immediately to the height of about two hundred feet. As we proceeded, we gradually heard the noise of a fall of water; and being presently obliged to strike more inland, as the bank became more precipitous, soon obtained a fresh view of the stream running on a much higher level than before, and dashing with great impetuosity down two small cataracts. Just below this, however, where the river turns almost at a right angle, we perceived a much greater spray, as well as a louder sound; and having walked a short distance down the bank, suddenly came upon the principal fall, of whose magnificence I am at a loss to give any adequate description. At the head of the fall, or where it commences its principal descent,

the river is contracted to about one hundred and fifty feet in breadth, the channel being hollowed out through a solid rock of gneiss.

After falling about fifteen feet at an angle of 30° with a vertical line, the width of the stream is still narrowed to about forty yards, and then, as if mustering its whole force previous to its final descent, is precipitated in one vast continuous sheet of water almost perpendicular for ninety feet more. So nearly, indeed, is the rock perpendicular, that we were enabled to let down a sounding lead and line, for the purpose of measuring its actual height, while a man descended from crag to crag with a second line attached to him, to see when the lead touched the water below. The dashing of the water from such a height produced the usual accompaniment of a cloud of spray, broad columns of which were constantly forced up, like the successive rushes of smoke from a vast furnace, and on this, near the top, a vivid *iris*, or rainbow, was occasionally formed by the bright rays of an unclouded sun. 'The roaring of the moun-

tain cataract,' which constitutes a principal feature of the sublime in scenery of this magnificent nature, was here almost deafening, and as we were able to approach the head of the fall even as close as a single yard, the very rock seemed to suffer a concussion under our feet. The basin that receives the water at the foot of the fall is nearly of a circular form, and about four hundred yards in diameter, being rather wider than the river immediately below it. The fall is about three-quarters of a mile above our landing-place, or two miles and a quarter from the entrance of the river.

After remaining nearly an hour, fixed as it were to the spot by the novelty and magnificence of the scene before us, we continued our walk upwards along the banks; and after passing the two smaller cataracts, found the river again increased in width to above two hundred yards, winding in the most romantic manner imaginable among the hills, and preserving a smooth and unruffled surface for a distance of three or four miles that we traced it to the south-west

above the fall. What added extremely to the beauty of this picturesque river, which Captain Lyon and myself named after our mutual friend, Mr. BARROW, Secretary to the Admiralty, was the richness of the vegetation on its banks, the enlivening brilliancy of a cloudless sky, and the animation given to the scene by several reindeer that were grazing beside the stream. Our sportsmen were fortunate in obtaining four of these animals; but we had no success with the seines, the ground proving altogether too rocky to use them with advantage or safety. The eider-ducks were here tolerably numerous, and we also met with some black-throated divers, golden plovers, and snow-buntings. On first entering the river two birds flew over our heads, appearing larger than eider-ducks, but with much less white on their backs and wings, and without the duck bill. On our return down the river, Captain Lyon landed on the opposite side, for the purpose of making a drawing of the fall in the best point of view; and we then returned on board at thirty

minutes past two P.M., after the most gratifying visit we had ever paid to the shore in these regions.

We found on our return that a fresh, southerly breeze, which had been blowing for several hours, had driven the ice to some distance from the land; so that at four P.M., as soon as the flood tide had slackened, we cast off and made all possible sail to the northward, steering for a headland, remarkable for having a patch of land towards the sea, that appeared insular in sailing along shore. As we approached this headland, which I named after my friend Mr. EDWARD LEYCESTER PENRHYN, the prospect became more and more enlivening; for the sea was found to be navigable in a degree very seldom experienced in these regions, and, the land trending two or three points to the westward of north, gave us reason to hope we should now be enabled to take a decided and final turn in that anxiously-desired direction. As we rounded Cape Penrhyn at seven P.M., we began gradually to lose sight of

the external body of ice, sailing close along that which was still attached in very heavy floes to this part of the coast. A headland, four leagues to the northward of Cape Penrhyn, was named after Mr. ROBERT BROWN, a gentleman with whose knowledge and labours in the department of botany every naturalist is acquainted. Both wind and tide being favourable, our progress was rapid and unobstructed, and nothing could exceed the interest and delight with which so unusual an event was hailed by us. Before midnight the wind came more off the land, and then became light and variable, after which it settled in the north-west with thick weather for several hours.

In the course of this day the walruses became more and more numerous every hour, lying in large herds upon the loose pieces of drift-ice; and it having fallen calm at one P.M., we despatched our boats to kill some for the sake of the oil which they afford. On approaching the ice our people found them huddled close to, and even lying upon, one another, in separate droves of

from twelve to thirty, the whole number near the boats being perhaps about two hundred. Most of them waited quietly to be fired at; and even after one or two discharges did not seem to be greatly disturbed, but allowed the people to land on the ice near them, and, when approached, showed an evident disposition to give battle. After they had got into the water, three were struck with harpoons and killed from the boats. When first wounded they became quite furious, and one, which had been struck from Captain Lyon's boat, made a resolute attack upon her, and injured several of the planks with its enormous tusks. A number of the others came round them, also repeatedly striking the wounded animals with their tusks, with the intention either of getting them away, or else of joining in the attack upon them. Many of these animals had young ones which, when assaulted, they either took between their fore-flippers to carry off, or bore away on their backs. Both of those killed by the Fury's boats were females, and the weight of the largest was fifteen hundred

and two quarters nearly; but it was by no means remarkable for the largeness of its dimensions. The peculiar barking noise made by the walrus when irritated, may be heard, on a calm day, with great distinctness at the distance of two miles at least. We found musquet-balls the most certain and expeditious way of despatching them after they had been once struck with the harpoon, the thickness of their skin being such, that whale-lances generally bend without penetrating it. One of these creatures being accidentally touched by one of the oars in Lieutenant Nias's boat, took hold of it between its flippers and forcibly twisting it out of the man's hand, snapped it in two. They produced us very little oil, the blubber being thin and poor at this season, but were welcomed in a way that had not been anticipated; for some quarters of this 'marine beef,' as Captain Cook has called it, being hung up for steaks, the meat was not only eaten, but eagerly sought after on this and every other occasion throughout the voyage, by all those among us who could overcome

the prejudice arising chiefly from the dark colour of the flesh. In no other respect that I could ever discover, is the meat of the walrus when fresh-killed in the slightest degree offensive or unpalatable. The heart and liver are indeed excellent.

While our boats were thus engaged, a light air, that had sprung up from the southward, gradually increased, and as soon as our game was hoisted in we bore up under all sail along the land, which still continued so extremely low, that as the sun got round a-head we could scarcely distinguish its points, and ran along chiefly guided by the soundings. In the course of the night we passed thousands of walruses, large herds of which were lying with their young on almost every loose piece of ice we saw. At midnight we were abreast of three small islets, which I consider to be the northernmost of those called by the Esquimaux 'Ooglit,' and so marked in the chart. We saw something like huts or tents upon them, but no other signs of inhabitants; we know, however, that they

are at times a principal resort of many of the Esquimaux ; and Iligliuk first directed our attention to them as the birth-place of her son.

After an unobstructed night's run, during which we met with no ice except in some loose ' streams,' the water became so much shoaler as to make it necessary to proceed with greater caution. Though the land along which we had been sailing had all been nearly equally low, we now began to decrease our soundings to nine, eight, and seven fathoms, and the water appeared much discoloured in some places. About this time also a great deal of high land came in sight to the northward and eastward, which, on the first inspection of the Esquimaux charts, we took to be the large portion of land called *Keiyuk-tar-ruoke* *, between which and the continent the promised strait lay that was to lead us to the westward. So far all was satis-

* This name being applied by the Esquimaux to several other portions of land, all of which are insular, or nearly so, it is probable that the word simply signifies an island.



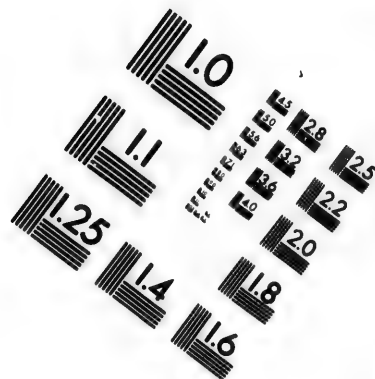
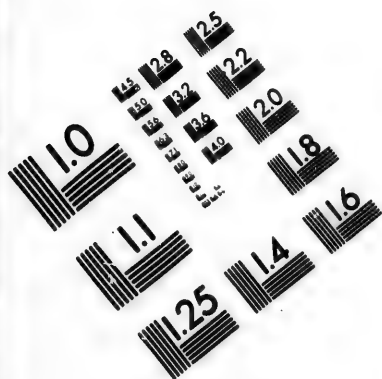
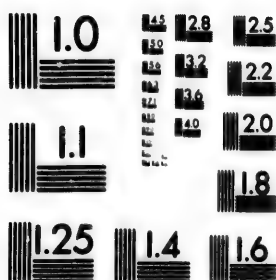


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factory; but after sailing a few miles farther it is impossible to describe our disappointment and mortification in perceiving an unbroken sheet of ice extending completely across the supposed passage from one land to the other. It is important here to [notice that our chief disappointment arose, not from the mere presence of ice blocking up the desired passage, to which our most anxious hopes had long by anticipation been directed, but from the *nature* of the ice which constituted our present impediment. This consisted of a floe so level and continuous, that a single glance was sufficient to assure us of the disagreeable fact, that it was the ice formed in its present situation during the winter, and still firmly attached to the land on every side. It was certain, from its continuous appearance for some miles that we ran along its edge, that it had suffered no disruption this season, which circumstance involved the necessity of our awaiting that operation which nature seemed scarcely yet to have commenced in this neighbourhood, before we could hope

to sail round the north-eastern point of the American continent.

At thirty minutes past nine A.M. we observed several tents on the low shore immediately abreast of us, and presently afterwards five canoes made their appearance at the edge of the land-ice intervening between us and the beach. As soon therefore as we had satisfactorily made out the position and state of the ice, I left the *Fury* in a boat, accompanied by some of the officers, and being joined by Captain Lyon, went to meet the Esquimaux, being extremely desirous of learning from them all the particulars of our situation. We soon found by the cautious manner in which the canoes approached us, that our Winter Island friends had not yet reached this neighbourhood. In a few minutes after we had joined them, however, a few presents served to dissipate all their apprehensions, if indeed people could be said to entertain any who thus fearlessly met us half way; and we immediately persuaded them to turn back with us to the shore. Being under

sail in the boat, with a fresh breeze, we took two of the canoes in tow and dragged them along at a great rate, much to the satisfaction of the Esquimaux, who were very assiduous in piloting us to the best landing-place upon the ice, where we were met by several of their companions and conducted to the tents. Before we had reached the shore, however, we had obtained one very interesting piece of information, namely, that it was Igloolik on which we were now about to land, and that we must therefore have made a very near approach to the strait which, as we hoped, was to conduct us once more into the Polar Sea.

We found here two divisions of tents, there being eleven where we landed, and five more about half a mile to the northward. They were situated on a low narrow bank, not more than twenty feet above the level of the sea, and running along the island parallel to the beach, from which it is distant only a few yards. Within this bank were numerous ponds of water, and much swampy ground, and beyond these,

at the back, the island gradually rises to a somewhat greater height. By the time we reached the tents we were surrounded by a crowd of men, women, and children, all carrying some trifling article, which they offered in barter, a business they seemed to understand as well, and to need, much more than their countrymen to the southward. It is pleasing, as well as remarkable, to find these people, even at our first intercourse with them, always appearing to entertain a sort of intuitive idea of the friendly disposition of the Kabloonas towards them, and of their wish as well as their ability to enrich them. No sooner, therefore, is the first of these ideas confirmed by kind and friendly behaviour than they begin to try what they can get from their new visitors. We were, of course, not backward in promoting a good understanding by means of such presents as we had brought with us, but they seemed to have no idea of our giving them any thing *gratis*, always offering some trifle in exchange, and expressing hesitation and sur-

prise when we declined accepting it. This was not to be wondered at among people who scarcely know what a free gift is among themselves; but they were not long in getting rid of all delicacy or hesitation on this score.

The tents, which varied in size according to the number of occupants, consisted of several seal and walrus skins, the former dressed without the hair, and the latter with the thick outer coat taken off, and the rest shaved thin, so as to allow of the transmission of light through it. These were put together in a clumsy and irregular patchwork, forming a sort of bag of a shape rather oval than round, and supported near the middle by a rude tent-pole composed of several deer's horns or the bones of other animals lashed together. At the upper end of this is attached another short piece of bone at right angles, for the purpose of extending the skins a little at the top, which is generally from six to seven feet from the ground. The lower part of the tent-pole rests on a large stone,

to keep it from sinking into the ground, and being no way secured, is frequently knocked down by persons accidentally coming against it, and again replaced upon the stone. The lower borders of the skins are held down by stones laid on them outside; and to keep the whole fabric in an erect position, a line of thong is extended from the top, on the side where the door is, to a larger stone placed at some distance. The door consists merely of two flaps, contrived so as to overlap one another, and to be secured by a stone laid upon them at the bottom. This entrance faces the south or south-east; and as the wind was now blowing fresh from that quarter, and thick snow beginning to fall, these habitations did not impress us at first sight with a very favourable idea of the comfort and accommodation afforded by them. The interior of the tents may be described in few words. On one side of the end next the door is the usual stone lamp, resting on any other rough stones, with the *ootkooseek*, or cooking pot suspended over it; and round this

are huddled together, in great confusion, the rest of the women's utensils, together with great lumps of raw sea-horse flesh and blubber, which at this season they enjoyed in most disgusting abundance. At the inner end of the tent, which is also the broadest, and occupying about one-third of the whole apartment, their skins are laid as a bed, having under them some of the *andromeda tetragona* when the ground is hard, but in this case placed on the bare dry shingle. Comfortless as these simple habitations appeared to us in a snow-storm, they are in general not deficient in warmth as summer residences; and being easily removed from place to place, they are certainly well suited to the wants and habits of this wandering people. When a larger habitation than usual is required, they contrive, by putting two of these together, to form a sort of double tent, somewhat resembling a marquee, and supported by two poles. The difference between these tents and the one I had seen in Lyon Inlet the preceding autumn, struck me as remark-

able, these having no *wall* of stones around them, as is usual in many that we have before met with, nor do I know their reason for adopting this different mode of construction.

Even if it were not the natural and happy disposition of these people to be pleased, and to place implicit confidence wherever kind treatment is experienced, that confidence would soon have been insured by our knowledge of their friends and relations to the southward, and the information which we were enabled to give respecting their late and intended movements. This, while it excited in them extreme surprise, served also at once to remove all distrust or apprehension, so that we soon found ourselves on the best terms imaginable. In return for all this interesting information, they gave us the names of the different portions of land in sight, many of which being recognised in their countrymen's charts, we no longer entertained a doubt of our being near the eastern entrance of the strait to which all our hopes were directed. We

now found also that a point of land in sight, a few miles to the southward of the tents, was near that marked *Ping-üt-kā-lik* on Ewerat's chart, and that, therefore, the low shore along which we had been constantly sailing the preceding night was certainly a part of the continent.

By the time we had distributed most of our presents, and told some long stories about Winter Island, to all which they listened with eager delight and interest, we found the weather becoming so inclement as to determine us to make the best of our way on board, and to take a more favourable opportunity of renewing our visit to the Esquimaux. The weather became more severe, and the wind drew more directly upon the ice, as we rowed out, so that the signal guns, fired occasionally by the ships, to point out their situation to us, were less and less distinctly heard. After pulling out for an hour and a half, Captain Lyon, who had a boat's crew composed of officers, and had, unfortunately, broken one of his oars, was under the necessity of returning

to the shore. My anxiety lest the ships should be ventured too near the shore, from a desire to pick up the boats, induced me to persevere an hour longer, when the wind having increased to a gale, which prevented our hearing any of the guns, I reluctantly bore up for our former landing-place. So rapidly, however, had the sea broken up the whole margin of the land-ice, that this could no longer be recognized, and it was with our utmost exertions that we at length succeeded in reaching any part of the fixed floe, in consequence of the quantity of loose and drifting masses now occupying its margin. In forcing through these, the boat was stove by a sharp corner of a piece of ice, and was full of water up to the thwarts when we reached the grounded ice. After repairing this damage and securing the boat, we walked to the shore, where I was happy to see the Hecla's boat safely hauled up. Captain Lyon and his party having quartered themselves at the southern tents, we took up our lodgings at the others, to which we were welcomed in the

kindest and most hospitable manner. That we might incommode the Esquimaux as little as possible, we divided into parties of two in each tent, though they would willingly have accommodated twice that number. Immediately on our arrival, they offered us dry boots, and it was not long before we were entirely 'rigged out' in their dresses, which, thoroughly drenched as we were by the sea, proved no small comfort to us. With these, and a seal-skin or two as a blanket, we kept ourselves tolerably warm during a most inclement night; and the tents, which but a few hours before we had looked upon as the most comfortless habitations imaginable, now afforded us a sufficient and most acceptable shelter.

The evening was passed in dealing out our information from the southward, and never did any arrival excite more anxious inquiries than those we were now obliged to answer. So intimate was the knowledge we possessed respecting many of their relationships, that by the help of a memoran-

dum book in which these had been inserted, I believe we almost at times excited a degree of superstitious alarm in their minds. This sort of gossip and incessant chattering and laughing continued till near midnight, when the numerous visitors in our tents began to retire to their own and to leave us to our repose.

Awaking at four A.M. on the 17th, I found that the weather had moderated and cleared up, and the ships soon after appearing in sight, we called our boat's crew up and sent one of the Esquimaux round to the other tents to inform Captain Lyon of our setting out. Several of the natives accompanied us to our boat, which they cheerfully helped us to launch, and then went round to another part of the beach for their own canoes. A thick fog had come on before this time, notwithstanding which, however, we managed to find the ships, and got on board by seven o'clock. Five canoes arrived soon after, and the wind being now light and variable, we lay-to for an hour to repay our kind friends for the hospitable reception they had given us. After sup-

plying them abundantly with tin canisters, knives, and pieces of iron hoop, we hauled to the north-eastward to continue our examination of the state of the ice, in hopes of finding that the late gale had in this respect done us some service.

Lieutenant Nias informed me on my return that the ships had, as I apprehended, experienced considerable difficulty in beating off the shore and the ice, upon which the gale had directly blown with a good deal of sea. The Hecla had, indeed, been once driven upon the margin of the floe, where she remained in a very awkward situation for half an hour, and then fortunately effected her escape ; after which, by carrying a press of canvass, both ships succeeded in gaining an offing, though not without much fatigue from constant wet and exertion.

I cannot delay any longer to remark, how valuable the geographical information received from the Esquimaux had now proved to us, especially at this particular crisis. On our arrival off Igloolik we had suddenly been arrested in our progress by an impe-

netrable barrier of ice, appearing to occupy the entrance of a large inlet or strait leading in the very direction in which it was our business to seek and to force a passage. On tracing the northern land, as far as the ice would permit, we now had it in sight reaching over nearly the whole extent of the eastern horizon, and almost to a south bearing, rendering it at least as likely as not that it would be found to continue as far as Fox's Farthest, or even to join the land in that neighbourhood. It is true that, in any case, nothing short of actual examination was to be deemed conclusive or admissible by us, and that therefore it was our business to wait till such examination could be effected; but who that can place himself for a moment in our situation will fail to appreciate the value of that information which left no doubt of the geographical position of the lands before us, as respected the existence of the strait, and thus saved us the inconceivable suspense and anxiety which entire ignorance on this subject would not fail to have occasioned?

Finding that a further examination of the

eastern lands could not at present be carried on, without incurring the risk of hampering the ships at a time when, for aught that we knew, the ice might be breaking up at the entrance of the strait, we stood back to the westward, and, having fetched near the middle of Igloolik, were gratified in observing that a large 'patch' of the fixed ice* had broken off and drifted out of sight during our absence. At nine A.M. we saw eleven canoes coming off from the shore, our distance from the tents being about four miles, where our soundings were from eleven to twelve fathoms, having shoaled gradually in the last two or three miles from forty-two to that depth. As the new line of ice left us something to examine, we bore up along its edge for that purpose, as well as to avoid the disturbance of our friends, who were approaching us with loud shouts during the time of divine service. After this the wind backed more to the southward,

* The expression 'fixed ice' appearing better suited to our present obstacle than that of 'land ice,' I shall in future adopt it in speaking of this barrier.

and thick snow coming on so as to prevent our seeing ahead, we hove to for the canoes, which had in the mean time communicated with the Hecla. We now hoisted two of them on board, their owners *Kā-kēe* and *Nū-yāk-kā* being very well pleased with the expedient, to avoid damaging them alongside. Above an hour was occupied in endeavouring to gain additional information respecting the land to the westward, and the time when we might expect the ice to break up in the strait, after which we dismissed them with various useful presents, the atmosphere becoming extremely thick with snow, and threatening a repetition of the same inclement weather as we had lately experienced.

On the 23d we went on shore to pay another visit to the Esquimaux, who came down on the ice in great numbers to receive us, repeatedly stroking down the front of their jackets with the palm of the hand as they advanced, a custom not before mentioned, as we had some doubt about it at Winter Island, and which they soon discon-

tinued here. They also frequently called out *tima*, a word which, according to Hearne, signifies in the Esquimaux language, 'What cheer!' and which Captain Franklin heard frequently used on first accosting the natives at the mouth of the Copper-mine River. It seems to be among these people a salutation equivalent to that understood by these travellers, or at least some equally civil and friendly one, for nothing could exceed the attention which they paid us on landing. Some individual always attached himself to each of us immediately on our leaving the boat, pointing out the best road, and taking us by the hand or arm to help us over the streams of water or fissures in the ice, and attending us wherever we went during our stay on shore.

The day proving extremely fine and pleasant, everything assumed a different appearance from that at our former visit, and we passed some hours on shore very agreeably. About half a mile inland of the tents, and situated upon the rising ground beyond the swamps and ponds before mentioned,

we found the ruins of several winter habitations, which, upon land so low as Igloolik, formed very conspicuous objects at the distance of several miles to sea-ward. These were of the same circular and dome-like form as the snow-huts, but built with much more durable materials, the lower part or foundation being of stones, and the rest, of the various bones of the whale and walrus, gradually inclining inwards and meeting at the top. The crevices, as well as the whole of the outside, were then covered with turf, which, with the additional coating of snow, in the winter, serves to exclude the cold air very effectually. The entrance is towards the south, and consists of a passage ten feet long, and not more than two in height and breadth, built of flat slabs of stone, having the same external covering as that of the huts. The beds are raised by stones two feet from the ground, and occupy about one-third of the apartment at the inner end, and the windows and a part of the roofs had been taken away for the convenience of removing their furniture in the spring. It

was a natural inference, from the nature of these habitations, that these people, or at least a portion of them, were constant residents on this spot, which, indeed, seemed admirably calculated to afford in luxurious profusion all that constitutes Esquimaux felicity. This, however, did not afterwards prove to be absolutely the case; for though Igloolik (as perhaps the name may imply), is certainly one of their principal and favourite rendezvous, yet we subsequently found the island entirely deserted by them at the same season.

In every direction around the huts were lying innumerable bones of walruses and seals, together with skulls of dogs, bears, and foxes, on many of which a part of the putrid flesh still remaining sent forth the most offensive effluvia. We were not a little surprised to find also a number of human skulls lying about among the rest, within a few yards of the huts; and were somewhat inclined to be out of humour on this account with our new friends, who not only treated the matter with the utmos

indifference, but on observing that we were inclined to add some of them to our collections, went eagerly about to look for them, and tumbled, perhaps, the craniums of some of their own relations into our bag, without delicacy or remorse. In various other parts of the island we soon after met with similar relics no better disposed of; but we had yet to learn how little pains these people take to place their dead out of the reach of hungry bears or anatomical collectors.

We found here a very abundant vegetation, which is much favoured by the numerous streamlets and ponds, as well as by the manure afforded by the permanent residence of the Esquimaux near this spot. In some places were many hundred yards of square space covered with moss of a beautiful soft velvet-like appearance, and of a bright green colour, such as I never saw before; and perhaps, indeed, moss cannot well be more luxuriant. I shall have abundant opportunities of speaking more in detail of the natural productions of this island, with which

we unfortunately became much better acquainted than we wished.

The account we gave of our visit to the shore naturally exciting the curiosity and interest of those who had not yet landed, and the ice remaining unchanged on the 24th, a couple of boats were despatched from each ship, with a large party of the officers and men, while the ships stood off and on. On the return of the boats in the evening, I found from Lieutenant Reid that a new family of the natives had arrived to-day from the main land, bringing with them a quantity of fine salmon and venison, of which some very acceptable samples were procured for both ships. Being desirous of following up so agreeable a kind of barter, I went on shore the next morning for that purpose, but could only procure a very small quantity of fish from the tent of the new-comer, a middle-aged, noisy, but remarkably intelligent and energetic man, named *Tōōlēmāk*. After some conversation, we found from this man, that in order to obtain a fresh supply of fish, three days

would be required ; this prevented my putting in execution a plan of going out to the place where the fish were caught, which we at first understood to be near at hand. We therefore employed all our eloquence in endeavouring to procure a supply of this kind by means of the Esquimaux themselves, in which we at length so far succeeded, that Toolemak promised, for certain valuable considerations of wood and iron, to set out on this errand the following day.

The weather being remarkably fine and pleasant, we amused ourselves for an hour or two in paddling about in canoes in a small lake, and soon found that the art is not so difficult to acquire as their unsteadiness at first inclines one to suppose. A great deal undoubtedly depends on the habit of keeping the body in a central and erect position, and care should also be taken to avoid touching the rim of the hole, because this, from its height, acts as a lever in oversetting the canoe. They are by no means, however, so 'crank' as they appear, easily coming down to their 'bearings,' but

then requiring considerable force to press them farther. The greatest difficulty we experienced in the management of them was to prevent 'broaching to' when going before the wind, the rower sitting so near the centre as to exert his power to great disadvantage in turning their heads in any direction. Paddling head to wind is by far the most easy and pleasant. Nothing is more likely to upset a canoe than what we call 'catching a crab' with the paddle, which is therefore to be carefully avoided; but I believe that any seaman might, after a few months' practice, render himself as expert as the Esquimaux in the management of these frail coracles, at least for every purpose to which they are commonly applied.

Shortly after I returned on board Captain Lyon made the signal 'to communicate with me,' for the purpose of offering his services to accompany our fisherman on his proposed journey, attended by one of the Hecla's men; to which, in the present unfavourable state of the ice, I gladly consented, as the

most likely means of procuring information of interest during this our unavoidable detention. I therefore gave Captain Lyon an order to this effect, directing his attention to the acquirement of geographical and natural knowledge; and to prevent the possibility of occasioning detention to the Expedition, limiting the time of his absence to the morning of the 30th. Being equipped with a small tent, blankets, and four days' provision, Captain Lyon left us at ten P.M., when I made sail to re-examine the margin of the ice.

We employed the following day in examining Tern Island, and having seen all that this little spot produced, we sailed over to the eastern islands, which I named the **CALTHORPE ISLANDS**, out of respect to **LORD CALTHORPE**. They had attracted our attention by two of them appearing at a distance to be of the primitive formation, which had for some time forsaken us. Finding that a great deal of ice had been detached and drifted away since our last attempt in this neighbourhood, we were now enabled to

approach the middle island of the three as near as the depth of water would admit; and in the evening made the ships fast to the fixed ice in twelve fathoms, at the distance of a long mile from the shore. The depth was regular and the bottom good in every part.

On the 28th, after divine service, we landed on the middle island, which was found to be composed of gneiss rock, and in every respect a counterpart of Winter Island in its other mineral productions. To save Iligliuk's credit, who had described these islands as inhabited, we found the south end covered with winter huts of precisely the same kind and materials as those described at Igloolik, but so overgrown with long rich grass as to indicate their having been two or three years deserted. Numberless skulls and bones were lying about them as usual, and some stone lamps and glass beads had also been left among the ruins. Leading from the huts towards the highest part of the island, was a curious path made by the natives, two feet in width,

and formed by removing the stones in places where they were naturally abundant, and where the ground was bare, by placing two regular and parallel rows at that distance apart. The only conjecture we could form respecting the use of this artificial road was that it might be intended for a deer path, (those animals preferring a regular or beaten track to any other,) by which means the Esquimaux might perhaps kill them from their ambush of stones. From the top of this island, which is not more than a mile in length, we obtained a commanding view and good angles of all the surrounding lands. Immediately to the eastward appeared a piece of low land that seemed insular, with a great extent of coast of the same kind at the back of it, which we could trace till lost in the distance.

It blew fresh from the eastward during the night, with continued rain, all which we considered favourable for dissolving and dislodging the ice, though very comfortless for Captain Lyon on his excursion. The weather at length clearing up in the afternoon,

I determined on beating to the eastward, to see if more of the land in that direction could be made out than the unfavourable position of the ice would permit at our last visit. In the mean time, I directed Lieutenant Hoppner to stand over to Igloolik in the Hecla, to see if Captain Lyon had returned, and if not, to leave an officer with a small party at the tents, with signals to announce his arrival. The Fury then made sail and stood to the eastward, encountering the usual strength of tide off the south-west point of Tangle Island, and soon after a great quantity of heavy drift-ice apparently not long detached from some land. In endeavouring to beat between this and the island, which is very shoal on that side, we gradually decreased our soundings every tack, till we had only four fathoms and a half, at the distance of a full mile from the shore. To avoid the risk of grounding in this rapid tide-way, we were then obliged to bear away for a narrow 'neck' to leeward, through which the ship was at length forced, and we soon got into clear water beyond.

I determined to avoid, if possible, the entanglement of the *Fury* among the ice, which now surrounded her on every side, and to stand back to Igloolik to hear what information Captain Lyon's journey might have procured for us. Before we could get into tolerably clear water, however, we had to run several miles to the southward, and then hoping to sail without farther incumbrance, shaped a direct course for Igloolik.

At the distance of one-third of a mile from Tangle Island, where we immediately gained the open sea beyond, we observed the *Hecla* standing towards us, and rejoined her at a quarter before eleven, when Captain Lyon came on board to communicate the result of his late journey, of which he furnished me with the following account, accompanied by a sketch of the lands he had seen, as far as the extremely unfavourable state of the weather would permit.

‘Accompanied by George Dunn, I found Toolemak on landing, who welcomed us to his tent, in which for two hours it was

scarcely possible to move, in consequence of the crowd who came to gaze at us. A new deer-skin was spread for me, and Dunn having found a corner for himself, we all lay down to sleep, not, however, until our host, his wife, their little son, and a dog, had turned in beside me under cover of a fine warm skin, all naked except the lady, who with the decorum natural to her sex kept on a part of her clothes. It rained incessantly during the night, and the morning of the 26th was in consequence very unfavourable for our purposed expedition. At ten A.M. we started, and found the sledge on a beach near the southern ice. Four men were to accompany us on this vehicle, and the good-natured fellows volunteered to carry our luggage. A second sledge was under the charge of three boys who had eight dogs, while our team consisted of eleven. The weather was so thick that at times we could not see a quarter of a mile before us, but yet went rapidly forward to the W.N.W., when, after about six hours, we came to a high bold land and a great

number of islands of reddish granite, wild and barren in the extreme. We here found the ice in a very decayed state, and in many places the holes and fissures were difficult if not dangerous to pass. At the expiration of eight hours our impediments in this respect had increased to such a degree as to stop our farther progress. Dunn, the old man, and myself therefore walked over a small island, beyond which we saw a sheet of water, which precluded any farther advance otherwise than by boats. At about three miles west of this were two bluffs separated by an apparent strait of half a mile in width, on the other side of which lay a flat field of ice over which was land in the distance.

‘ In the hope that the morning would prove more favourable for our seeing the land, the only advantage now to be derived from our visit since the fishing place was not attainable, it was decided to pass the night on one of the rocky islands. The Esquimaux having brought no provision with them, I distributed our four days’ allow-

ance of meat in equal proportions to the whole party, who afterwards lay down to sleep on the rocks, having merely a piece of skin to keep the rain from their faces. In this comfortless state they remained very quietly for eight hours. Our little hunting-tent just held Dunn and myself, although not in a very convenient manner, but it answered the purpose of keeping us dry except from a stream of water that ran under us all night.

‘ The morning of the 27th was rather fine for a short time, and we saw above thirty islands, which I named COXE’S GROUP, varying in size from one hundred yards to a mile or more in length. Two deer were observed on the northern land, which was called *Khead-Laghioo* by the Esquimaux, and Toolemak accompanied Dunn in chase of them. One was killed by the latter, as he informed me, in consequence of the old man’s lying behind a stone and imitating the peculiar bellow of these animals, until it was led by its curiosity to come within a short gun-shot. On crossing to bring over

our game, we found the old Esquimaux had skinned and broken up the deer after his own manner, and my companions being without food I divided it into shares. The entrails and paunch I was about to leave on the plain, but was reminded by the anxious looks of the natives, that these offals are described by Crantz as delicacies, under the name of *Nērōōkā*, or 'the eatable,' an appellation which also distinguishes them at Igloodik. I accordingly assigned these choice morsels to a young man of our party, who bore them off in triumph.

'Arriving on the ice a skin was taken from the sledge as a seat, and we all squatted down to a repast which was quite new to me. In ten minutes the natives had picked the deer's bones so clean that even the hungry dogs disdained to gnaw them a second time. Dunn and myself made our breakfast on a choice slice cut from the spine, and found it so good, the wind-pipe in particular, that at dinner-time we preferred the same food to our share of the preserved meat which we had saved from

the preceding night. Of the nerooka I also tasted a small portion, on the principle that no man who wishes to conciliate or inquire into the manners of savages should refuse to fare as they do. I found this substance acid and rather pungent, resembling as near as I could judge a mixture of sorrel and radish leaves. I conceive that the acidity recommends it to these people.

As we sat I observed the musquitoes to be very numerous, but they were lying in a half torpid state on the ice and incapable of molesting us. I obtained the meridian altitude, which gave the lat. $69^{\circ} 26' 48''$ N.; the western extreme of Igloolik bearing E.S.E. about fourteen miles. Soon after noon we set forward on our return, and, without seeing any object but the flat and decaying ice, passed from land to land with our former celerity, dashing through large pools of water much oftener than was altogether agreeable to men who had not been dry for above thirty hours, or warm for a still longer period. Our eleven dogs were large fine-looking animals, and an old one of

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Drawn by Capt. Lyon, R.N.

SLEDGES OF THE HESPERIA.

Published Jan^y 1828. by John Murray, London.

Engraved by Edw. Finden.

peculiar sagacity was placed at their head by having a longer trace, so as to lead them over the safest and driest places, for these animals have a great dread of water. The leader was instant in obeying the voice of the driver, who did not beat but repeatedly talked to and called it by name. It was beautiful to observe the sledges racing to the same object, the dogs and men in full cry, and the vehicles splashing through the water with the velocity of rival stage coaches.

‘We were joyfully welcomed to the dwelling of Ooyarra, whose guest I was now to become, and the place of honour, the deer-skin seat, was cleared for my reception: His two wives, *Kăi-mōō-khiăk* and *Awă-rūn-nĭ*, occupied one end, for it was a double tent; while at the opposite extremity the parents of the senior wife were established. The old mother *Nōw-kĭt-yōo* assisted the young woman in pulling off our wet clothes and boots, which latter being of native manufacture, she new-soled and mended without any request on our side, considering us

as a part of the family. Our knapsacks and clothes being wet, we gladly turned, in presence of a dozen or more of visitors, into our blanket-bags, which had been better preserved. Dunn slept in the little tent to watch our goods, and I had a small portion of Ooyarra's screened off for me by a seal's skin. Tired as I was, sleep was denied me; for I was obliged on the arrival of each new set of people to answer their questions as to how I possibly could have got into the bag, the manner in which I had wrapped it round me for warmth leading them to suppose I was sewed up in it. My host and his wives having retired to another tent, and my visitors taking compassion on me, I went comfortably to sleep; but at midnight was awakened by a feeling of great warmth, and to my surprise found myself covered by a large deer-skin, under which lay my friend, his two wives, and their favourite puppy, all fast asleep and stark naked. Supposing this was all according to rule, I left them to repose in peace, and resigned myself to sleep.

‘On rising, Dunn and I washed with soap in a pond, which caused great speculations amongst the by-standers, on some of whom we afterwards performed miracles in the cleansing way. A large assemblage being collected to hear me talk of Neyuning-Eitua, or Winter Island, and to see us eat, the women volunteered to cook for us; and as we preferred a fire in the open air to their lamps, the good-natured creatures sat an hour in the rain to stew some venison which we had saved from our shares of the deer. The fires in summer, when in the open air, are generally made of bones previously well rubbed with blubber, and the female who attends the cooking chews a large piece, from which, as she extracts the oil, she spurts it on the flame. At our meals I found every person much pleased with biscuit, which was supposed to be the dried flesh of the musk ox by those who had never seen that animal; and it was with great difficulty I explained that it was made from the seeds of a little tree and pounded to its present state.

‘ After noon, as I lay half asleep, a man came, and, taking me by the hand, desired Dunn to follow. He led to a tent, which, from the stillness within, I conjectured was untenanted. Several men stood near the door, and on entering I found eighteen women assembled and seated in regular order, with the seniors in front. In the centre, near the tent-pole, stood two men, who, when I was seated on a large stone, walked slowly round, and one began dancing in the usual manner, to the favourite tune of “Amna aya.” The second person, as I soon found, was the dancer’s assistant, and when the principal had pretty well exhausted himself, he walked gravely up to him, and, taking his head between his hands, performed a ceremony called *Kōō-nīk*, which is rubbing noses, to the great amusement and amidst the plaudits of the whole company. After this, as if much refreshed, he resumed his performance, occasionally, however, taking a koonik to enliven himself and the spectators. The rubbee, if I may be excused the expression, was at length brought

forward and put in the place of the first dancer, who rushed out of the tent to cool himself. In this manner five or six couples exhibited alternately, obtaining more or less applause, according to the oddity of their grimaces. At length a witty fellow, in consequence of some whispering and tittering amongst the ladies, advanced and gave me the koonik, which challenge I was obliged to answer by standing up to dance, and my nose was in its turn most severely rubbed, to the great delight of all present.

‘ Having been as patient as could be wished for above an hour, and being quite overpowered by the heat of the crowded tent, I made a hasty retreat, after having distributed needles to all the females, and exacting kooniks from all the prettiest in return. A general outcry was now made for Dunn, a most quiet North countryman, to exhibit also; but he, having seen the liberties which had been taken with my nose, very prudently made his retreat, anticipating what would be his fate if he remained.

‘ During a short interval of fine weather,

we hung out our clothes to dry, and the contents of our knapsacks, instruments, knives, and beads were strewed on the ground, while we went inland to shoot a few ducks. We cautioned no one against thieving, and were so much at their mercy that everything might have been taken without a possibility of detection, yet not a single article was found to have been removed from its place at our return. At night I was attended by the same bed-fellows as before; the young puppy, however, being now better acquainted, took up his quarters in my blanket-bag, as from thence he could the more easily reach a quantity of walrus-flesh which lay near my head, and I was awakened more than once by finding him gnawing a lump by my side.

‘ On the morning of the 29th, I was really glad to find that the ships were not yet in sight, as I should be enabled to pass another day amongst the hospitable natives. While making my rounds, I met several others, who were also visiting, and who each invited me to call at his tent in its turn.

Wherever I entered the master rose and resigned his seat next his wife or wives, and stood before me or squatted on a stone near the door. I was then told to "speak!" or in fact to give a history of all I knew of the distant tribe, which, from constant repetition, I could now manage pretty well. In one tent I found a man mending his paddle, which was ingeniously made of various little scraps of wood, ivory, and bone, lashed together. He put it into my hands to repair, taking it for granted that a Kabloona would succeed much better than himself. An hour afterwards the poor fellow came and took me by the hand to his tent, where I found a large pot of walrus flesh evidently cooked for me. His wife licked a piece and offered it, but on his saying something to her, took out another, and having pared off the outside, gave me the clean part, which, had it been carrion, I would not have hurt these poor creatures by refusing. The men showed me some curious puzzles with knots on their fingers, and I did what I could in return. The little

girls were very expert in a singular but dirty amusement, which consisted in drawing a piece of sinew up their nostrils and producing the end out of their mouths. The elder people were, for the most part, in chase of the tormentors, which swarmed in their head and clothes; and I saw, for the first time, an ingenious contrivance for detaching them from the back, or such parts of the body as the hands could not reach. This was the rib of a seal, having a bunch of the whitest of a deer's hair attached to one end of it, and on this rubbing the places which require it the little animals stick to it; from their colour they are easily detected, and of course consigned to the mouths of the hunters.

'The weather clearing in the afternoon, one ship was seen in the distance, which diffused a general joy amongst the people, who ran about screaming and dancing with delight. While lounging along the beach, and waiting the arrival of the ship, I proposed a game at "leap frog," which was quite new to the natives, and in learning

which some terrible falls were made. Even the women with the children at their backs would not be outdone by the men, and they formed a grotesque party of opposition jumpers. Tired with a long exhibition, I retreated to the tent, but was allowed a very short repose, as I was soon informed that the people from the farthest tents were come to see my performance, and on going out I found five men stationed at proper distances with their heads down for me to go over them, which I did amidst loud cries of *koyenna* (thanks).

‘ As the ship drew near in the evening, I perceived her to be the Hecla, but not expecting a boat so late, lay down to sleep. I soon found my mistake, for a large party came drumming on the side of the tent, and crying out that a “little ship” was coming, and in fact I found the boat nearly on shore. Ooyarra’s senior wife now anxiously begged to tattoo a little figure on my arm, which she had no sooner done than the youngest insisted on making the same mark; and while all around were running

about and screaming in the greatest confusion, these two poor creatures sat quietly down to embellish me. When the boat landed, a general rush was made for the privilege of carrying our things down to it. Awarunni, who owned the little dog which slept with me, ran and threw him as a present into the boat; when, after a general koonik, we pushed off, fully sensible of the kind hospitality we had received. Toolemak and Ooyarra came on board in my boat, in order to pass the night and receive presents, and we left the beach under three hearty cheers.

‘ Having given so long an account of my adventures, it is high time to turn to objects of more importance to the Expedition. I had found the ice over which we passed flat, unbroken, but much decayed into holes. The general thickness was still from one to three feet, and amongst the islands much greater, owing to the packing incidental to the rise and fall of the tides. Astronomical or other observations for fixing the position of the land could not be

obtained, in consequence of the state of the weather, which, with the kind of fatality that had attended all my excursions, had been more than usually severe and foggy. I had seen enough to awaken curiosity, but nothing to satisfy it; therefore it would be requisite for other visits to be made to a spot to which the Esquimaux attached some importance.'

CHAPTER XI.

Remarkable instance of local attraction on the magnetic needles—Occasional separation of a portion of the fixed ice—A whale killed—Other charts drawn by the Esquimaux—Account of a journey to the narrows of the strait—Discovery of the sea to the westward—Total disruption of the ice at the eastern entrance of the strait—A second instance of local attraction on the compasses—Sail through the narrows, and again stopped by fixed ice—Account of several land journeys and boat excursions—Observations on the tides—Continued obstacles from fixed ice.

Aug. 1. — THE information obtained by Captain Lyon on his late journey with the Esquimaux, served very strongly to confirm all that had before been understood from those people, respecting the existence of the desired passage to the westward in this neighbourhood, though the impossibility of Captain Lyon's proceeding farther in that

direction, combined with our imperfect knowledge of the language, still left us in some doubt as to the exact position of the strait in question. It was certain, however, that it lay somewhere in the direction to which we had already been so long and so anxiously looking, and that its eastern entrance was still occupied by many miles of fixed and therefore impenetrable ice; but the very impediment that had arrested Captain Lyon's progress, as well as our own daily observations on the state of the ice near its outer margin, appeared to offer a considerable hope that this obstacle must, in the common course of nature, very soon disappear, even by the gradual process of dissolution, if it were not more speedily removed by one grand and total disruption. While, therefore, Captain Lyon was acquainting me with his late proceedings, we shaped a course for Igloodik, in order to continue our look-out upon the ice, and made the tents very accurately by the compass, after a run of five leagues, when the Hecla hauled in-shore to pick up one of her

men that had been left there to procure game, and the Fury stood towards the margin of the ice.

The wind backing by the N.E. to N.N.W. during the night, we had on the 3d a clear and pleasant day, which, as the ice remained in the same state as before, induced us to pay another visit to Tern Island. We here found the scurvy-grass so much improved in luxuriance that a number of men from each ship were employed all day in picking it for the purpose of boiling with our pea-soup. Everybody seemed to agree that the taste of this plant somewhat resembled turnip-tops, but it possesses it in a very small degree, and whatever may be its anti-scorbutic qualities, has little or nothing to recommend it to the palate. The leaves were in general numerous, but not exceeding two-eighths of an inch in diameter, and in many tufts there was nothing but the flower and stalks; but these, as well as the root, were all committed to our coppers, being the only general supply of the kind obtained during this voyage. The tern had

now almost entirely deserted the island, and we saw no other birds except a flock or two of phalaropes and a few silvery gulls.

The present state of the ice, which was thin and 'rotten,' served no less to excite our surprise than to keep alive our hopes and expectations. The spaces occupied respectively by ice and holes were about equal; and so extensive and dangerous were the latter, that the men could with extreme difficulty walk twenty or thirty yards from the ship to place the anchors, and that at no small risk of falling through. The shape of the ponds and holes being serpentine and various, and their blue colour forming a striking contrast with the whiteness of the snow that lay on the ice, gave the floe, when viewed from the mast-head, an appearance not unlike that of the fancy-patterns one sometimes sees on cloths or paper-hangings. We were astonished, therefore, to find with what tenacity a field of ice, whose parts appeared thus loosely joined, still continued to hang together, notwithstanding the action of

the swell that almost constantly set upon its margin.

We had for several days past occasionally seen black whales about the ships, and our boats were kept in constant readiness to strike one, for the sake of the oil, in which endeavour they at length succeeded this morning. The usual signal being exhibited, all the boats were sent to their assistance, and in less than an hour and a half had killed and secured the fish, which proved a moderate-sized one of above 'nine feet bone,' exactly suiting our purpose. The operation of 'flinching' this animal, which was thirty-nine feet and a half in length, occupied most of the afternoon, each ship taking half the blubber and hauling it on the ice, 'to make off,' or put into casks. We also made fires on the ice, in order to boil a portion of the blubber into oil, for the convenience of stowage; but this method being found a wasteful one until it is left several days to drain, we boiled only a hundred and twenty gallons each, and then put the rest into tanks and

casks, being a supply sufficient for at least two years.

On the forenoon of the 6th a halo was observed round the sun, and on the eastern side of it a slightly-coloured parhelion, distant from the sun $27^{\circ}.17$. Some water, brought up on the 7th, from sixty fathoms or near the bottom, was at the temperature of $31^{\circ}.6$, that of the surface being $31^{\circ}.3$, and of the air 35° . As soon as we had completed the stowage of the blubber, and washed the ships and people's clothes, we cast off, taking in tow the carcass of the whale (technically called the 'crang') for our friends at Igloodik, and with the intention also of looking for the buoy that had been laid down in that neighbourhood. In the latter attempt we again failed, the buoy having probably been swept away by the drift-ice; nor could we afterwards hit upon the exact spot where the attraction on the needles had been observed. The wind dying away when the ships were off the north-east end of the island, the boats were despatched to tow the whale on shore, while

Captain Lyon and myself went a-head to meet some of the canoes that were paddling towards us. We soon joined eleven of them, and on our informing the Esquimaux of the prize the boats were bringing them, they paddled off with great delight. When they arrived at the spot, and had civilly asked permission to eat some of it, they dropped their canoes astern to the whale's tail, from which they cut off enormous lumps of flesh and ravenously devoured it; after which they followed our boats in-shore, where the carcass was made fast to a mass of grounded ice for their future disposal. In the mean time Captain Lyon and myself had rowed up to the station formerly occupied by the tents, which, however, we now found wholly deserted by the natives, who had left only a sledge or two, and a quantity of blubber here and there under the stones before used for the tents.

A fresh breeze having sprung up from the southward, we stood off and on for the night, and on the 8th again made the ice, in which no change was perceptible. We

hoped, however, that some service would be done us by the swell, though its effects would only be rendered apparent when the wind veered to the westward. This taking place on the following day, we had the satisfaction of seeing another large 'patch,' from one to two miles in width, separated from the fixed ice, and soon drifted out of sight to the south-east. As we made several tacks off the island next to the northward of Igloolik, called by the Esquimaux *Neerlo-Nackto*, two canoes came off to us, in one of which was Toolemak. He and his companions came on board the *Fury*, when I employed him for a couple of hours in drawing a chart of the strait. Toolemak, though a sensible and intelligent man, we soon found to be no draftsman, so that his performance in this way, if taken alone, was not a very intelligible delineation of the coast. By dint, however, of a great deal of talking on his part, and some exercise of patience on ours, we at length obtained a copious verbal illustration of his sketch, which confirmed all our former accounts

respecting the existence of a passage to the westward in this immediate neighbourhood, and the large extent of the land called Keiyuktarruoke on the northern side of the strait. The word *Khēmig* he applied either to the strait or to some place about its shores, as he had before done to Captain Lyon; but the weather was at this time unfortunately too thick to allow of his pointing out the exact direction in which this interesting spot lay. This piece of information was, just at the moment, desirable only as a matter of extreme curiosity and almost painful interest, as it was certain that the passage was at present inaccessible to ships on account of the ice. Toolemak also agreed with our other Esquimaux informants in stating, that from the coast of Akkoolee no land is visible to the westward; nor was any ever heard of in that direction by the Esquimaux. This fact they uniformly assert with a whine of sorrow, meaning thereby to intimate that their knowledge and resources are there both at an end. Toolemak represented the coast

of Keiyuktarruoke as abounding with whales and narwhals, and repeatedly mentioned that icebergs were seen on its northern side, as before described by Okotook. The only actual addition to our former information was respecting some Esquimaux inhabiting an island of considerable size, at a great distance to the eastward or northeast. These people they call by the name of *Seăd-lēr-mě-ōo*, a general term by which they distinguish all Esquimaux not belonging to their own tribe, and of whom, with their accustomed self-conceit, they invariably speak with undisguised contempt. It is remarkable that even the natives of Southampton Island, notwithstanding their proximity to the continental coast, come under this denomination; there being no intercourse whatever, as far as we could learn, between the two tribes.

The ships being close to the edge of the floe in the evening, I directed them to be made fast; but the boat that went to make holes for the ice-anchors returning with the information that the ice was in too 'rotten'

a state to hold them, we ran the ships into the floe under all sail, where they easily made a dock for themselves, and remained quietly for the night, which proved extremely fine and clear. A number of shrimps, *echini*, and other marine insects were brought up in a net from the bottom.

The disruption of the ice continued to proceed slowly, till early on the morning of the 14th; the breeze having freshened from the north-west, another floe broke away from the fixed ice, allowing us to gain about half a mile more to the westward; such was the vexatious slowness with which we were permitted to advance towards the object of our most anxious wishes! As, however, this disruption brought us so much nearer the islands towards which I was about to travel, we cast off and beat up into the bight left by the floe.

My party consisted of Mr. Richards, and two men from each ship, and we were furnished with ten days' provision. Mr. Crozier, with three additional men, was appointed to assist in carrying our baggage to

the first islands, and then to return on board. Having given Captain Lyon the necessary instructions for proceeding during my absence, and appointed the narrow part of the strait as a rendezvous in case of any sudden disruption of the ice allowing him to follow us, I left the ships at half-past one P.M., but had scarcely proceeded two hundred yards, when we found that a plank would form an indispensable part of our equipment, for the purpose of crossing the numerous pools and holes in the ice. Two planks of fir nailed together being speedily furnished from the ships, at two P.M. we finally took our departure.

Having soon gained the more solid floe before observed from the island, we found its edge distinctly defined by a straight line of 'hummocky' ice, where it was joined to the thinner floe occupying the stream of the strait; giving us the impression of its having been much longer formed than the other in consequence of being out of the tide-way, and affording, by its comparative solidity, very superior travelling. Being

thus favoured, we made quick progress to the westward for seven or eight miles, when the holes and cracks began to increase in frequency and depth, and we were three hours in accomplishing the last mile and a half; the warmth reflected from the land, and the action of the tides in raising and depressing the ice, having here cracked, and partially detached it in many places. We landed at a quarter past nine P.M. after seven hours' walking, the direct distance from the ships not exceeding ten or eleven miles, and found it low water by the shore about ten o'clock.

The difficulty experienced in landing made me apprehensive lest Mr. Crozier and his party should not be able to get from the island without the assistance of our bridge. I despatched him, however, at four A.M. on the 15th, and had the satisfaction to find that, being now unencumbered with loads, he and his men were able, by a circuitous route observed from the hills, to leap from one mass of ice to another, and thus to gain the more solid floe. Having seen him thus

far safely on his way, we crossed the island one-third of a mile to the westward, carrying the plank with slings from our shoulders, to prevent injuring it on the rocks. After passing over broken and detached ice for a mile and a quarter to the next island, which is a small one, we found it separated by a narrow channel of a hundred yards in width from a third and larger. After dining and resting an hour or two about noon, near the middle of this island, we arrived on its western shore at six in the evening, when the weather becoming misty we pitched the tent for the night. Between this and the next island was a large space entirely clear of ice, and here we observed a black whale sporting about: we also met with two large deer and a fawn, but could not get near them. A long-tailed duck with three very young ones, and a pair or two of red-throated divers, were swimming about in the ponds. The former served us as a supper, the *andromeda tetragona* and ground-willow furnishing fuel for cooking them. A pair of ravens, one or two silvery

gulls, and a few snow-buntings, were all we saw besides.

Heavy snow continued to fall during the night, rendering the atmosphere too thick to allow us to see our way till half-past nine A.M. on the 16th, when we struck the tent, and set out upon the ice, which we now found better for travelling than before, consisting of a level floe, intersected only by numberless pools not more than knee-deep, and with their bottom generally strong enough to allow us to wade through them. Proceeding along the southern side of the land on which the remarkable hill before-mentioned is situated, we halted at noon a mile and a half due south of it, and observed the latitude $69^{\circ} 37' 40''$; and then continuing our journey landed at two P.M. to dine and rest. Serjeant Wise here shot a hare of a remarkably dark colour on the upper part of the body, and particularly about the ears, but quite white underneath. Two or three ring plovers were also seen.

We moved again at half-past four; and at a mile and a half in a W.b.N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. direc-

tion, arrived at the extreme point of the island, and crossed the ice about a hundred yards to the next. Traversing this also, we then walked a mile and a half, with the assistance of the plank, which it frequently required extreme caution not to break, over loose and even drifting ice to the next, on which we halted for the night at eight P.M., after a day's journey of no great length, but attended with much wet and fatigue. The snow, which fell at intervals during the day, was succeeded in the evening by rain and fog, which continued very thick till six A.M. on the 17th, when we resumed our journey across the island; and after deeper wading than usual in reaching the ice, at length set forward upon it, and at nine o'clock landed on a small island in a S.W.b.W. direction. The sun now making its appearance, and the whole of our clothes and baggage being wet, I determined to remain here a few hours to dry them, which we were soon enabled to do, the wind shifting to the N.W., and quickly dissipating the fog and clouds.

The warmth of the sun seemed not more agreeable and invigorating to us than to the other inhabitants of the island. These consisted only of numerous large mosquitoes, which, though in a torpid state before, now commenced their attacks, and continued to annoy us during the rest of our stay. Their sting, however, certainly produced, in this climate, much less inflammation than is usual in a warmer one, though I do not know how much of this difference is to be attributed to the man, and how much to the mosquito.

After obtaining the meridian altitude, which gave the lat. $69^{\circ} 37' 55''$, we left the island and directed our course across the ice to the N W., towards a low part of the land. On reaching this spot, which proved to be an isthmus scarcely fifty yards in breadth, and ascending the first eminence, we had every reason to be satisfied with our route, being now enabled to perceive that we had in all probability reached the main land; the ice lately crossed being that of a spacious bay to the south, which I

named after my fellow traveller Mr. RICHARDS, and the sea to the northward, between us and the high land of Keiyuktarruoke bearing evident marks of our approach to the supposed strait. The ice was here entirely broken up and in motion to the eastward, and in many places about the northern shore there was abundance of open water. Being satisfied that we could now perform the remainder of our journey by land, I determined to leave the plank and a portion of our provisions at this spot, and to make a forced march for the strait as lightly equipped as possible. We here, for the first time, found the rocks to be composed of red granite, a circumstance we hailed with satisfaction at the time, as Captain Lyon had met with a similar formation at the extent of his journey to the westward. It was high water by the shore at about seven in the evening.

At two o'clock on the morning of the 18th, the weather being extremely fine and clear, we rose with the sun; and after depositing our spare stores within a heap of

stones, left the isthmus, and directed our course over the hills to the westward, which consist partly of greyish gneiss and partly of red granite, some of them rising at least a thousand or twelve hundred feet above the level of the sea. These being in some places extremely steep, with numberless loose fragments lying about, which only required the foot to be set upon them to give them motion down the precipice, we were for some time obliged to proceed with much caution. At half-past five, however, we had arrived at a peninsula which promised to prove of high interest, for it appeared to lead to the very spot where, from the set of the tide and the trending of the coast, the strait was most likely to be found; and it presented at the same time a geological character differing from any we had before met with. The appearance of the southern or inner part of this peninsula is singular, being that of three or more nearly horizontal and equidistant ranges or strata, resembling at a distance so many tiers or galleries of a high and commanding

fortification, which seemed to defy approach. On reaching this place, where two long and deep ponds of fresh water serve to contract still more the narrow isthmus by which it is divided from the other land, we found the rocks composed of a brownish-red sandstone in numerous alternate strata of darker and lighter shades, though three or four only of these were conspicuous at a distance.

We now turned nearly due north, and, after passing over a mile and a half of rocky country, we arrived at about seven A.M. at the ultimate object of our journey, the extreme northern point of the peninsula, overlooking the narrowest part of the desired strait, which lay immediately below us in about an east and west direction, being two miles in width, apparently very deep, and with a tide or current, of at least two knots, setting the loose ice through to the eastward. Beyond us, to the west, the shores again separated to the distance of several leagues; and for more than three points of the compass, in that direction, no land could be seen to the utmost limits of a clear horizon,

except one island six or seven miles distant. Over this we could not entertain a doubt of having discovered the Polar Sea; and loaded as it was with ice, we already felt as if we were on the point of forcing our way through it along the northern shores of America.

After despatching one of our party to the foot of the point for some of the sea water, which was found extremely salt to the taste, we hailed the interesting event of the morning by three hearty cheers and by a small extra allowance of grog to our people, to drink a safe and speedy passage through the channel just discovered, which I ventured to name by anticipation, **THE STRAIT OF THE FURY AND HECLA**. Having built a pile of stones upon the promontory, which, from its situation with respect to the continent of America, I called **CAPE NORTH-EAST**, we walked back to our tent and baggage, these having, for the sake of greater expedition, been left two miles behind; and, after resting a few hours, set out at three p.m. on our return. To save ourselves the fatigue of re-ascending the

craggy and precipitous mountain land passed over in the morning, we struck through some ravines and valleys more to the southward, which, however, led us so far out of our way, without much improving the road, that we did not reach our depôt till a quarter past seven in the evening, after a circuitous journey of fourteen or fifteen miles. This walk, however, subsequently proved of service, in pointing out the route by which another object might be attained.

We reached the ships on our return at ten o'clock P.M. on Tuesday the 20th. On almost all the shores both of the main land and islands that we visited, some traces of the Esquimaux were found: but they were less numerous than in any other places on which we had hitherto landed. This circumstance rather seemed to intimate, as we afterwards found to be the case, that the shores of the strait and its immediate neighbourhood are not a frequent resort of the natives during the summer months.

My return was very opportune, for at the very time of our crossing the lane of water

as mentioned above, the ice was in the act of opening out, and continued to do so for the rest of the night; so that on the morning of the 21st the ships were nearly in clear water, while the weather became so thick in an hour after our arrival, that we could scarcely see a quarter of a mile for two days afterwards.

We got under weigh on the 21st, were off Cape North-East on the 26th, and I gave the name of CAPE OSSORY to the eastern point of the northern land of the Narrows; but on that day, after clearing two dangerous shoals, and again deepening our soundings, we had begun to indulge the most flattering hopes of now making such a rapid progress as would in some degree compensate for all our delays and disappointments, when, at once to crush every expectation of this sort, it was suddenly announced from the crow's nest that another barrier of *fixed* ice stretched completely across the strait, a little beyond us, in one continuous and impenetrable field, still occupying its winter station. In less

than an hour we had reached its margin, when, finding this report but too correct, and that therefore all further progress was at present as impracticable as if no strait existed, we ran the ships under all sail for the floe, which proved so 'rotten' and decayed, that the ships forced themselves three or four hundred yards through it before they stopped. Keeping all our canvas spread, we then tried to break the thin edges about the numerous holes, by dropping weights over the bows, as well as by various other equally ineffectual expedients; but the ice was 'tough' enough to resist every effort of this kind, though its watery state was such as to increase, if possible, our annoyance at being stopped by it. The passage to the northward of the island was not even so clear as this by above two miles of ice, so that in every respect our present route was to be preferred to the other; and thus, after a vexatious delay of six weeks at the eastern entrance of the strait, and at a time when we had every reason to hope that nature, though hitherto tardy in her

annual disruption of the ice, had at length made an effort to complete it, did we find our progress once more opposed by a barrier of the same continuous, impenetrable, and hopeless nature as at first!

In the evening of the 28th, finding the weather not likely to improve, and that the situation of the ships, if kept under way during the night in this narrow and unknown channel, must be a very dangerous one, we bore up to make the island, in the hope of finding shelter under one of its numerous low points. In this last resource we were not disappointed; for in an hour's run we made the island, which was now so covered with snow as to be easily mistaken for a floe of ice, without great attention to the leads; and with a degree of good fortune which has never yet deserted us in such cases, we succeeded in picking out an excellent anchorage in eleven fathoms, where we passed a thick, snowy, and dark night, without any disturbance from wind or ice.

As soon as the anchors were dropped,

my attention was once more turned to the main object of the Expedition, from which it had for a moment been diverted by the necessity of exerting every effort for the immediate safety of the ships. This being now provided for, I had leisure to consider in what manner, hampered as the ships were by the present state of the ice, our means and exertions might, during this unavoidable detention, be employed to the greatest advantage, or at least with the best prospect of ultimate utility.

Whatever doubts might at a distance have been entertained respecting the identity, or the contrary, of the place visited by Captain Lyon with that subsequently discovered by myself, there could be none on a nearer view; as, independently of the observed latitude, Captain Lyon could not, on approaching the narrows, recognise a single feature of the land; our present channel being evidently a much wider and more extensive one than that pointed out by Toolemak, on the journey. It became, therefore, a matter of interest, now that this

point was settled, and our progress again stopped by an insuperable obstacle, to ascertain the extent and communication of the southern inlet; and, should it prove a second strait, to watch the breaking up of the ice about its eastern entrance, that no favourable opportunity might be missed of pushing through it to the westward. Hitherto, as I have before remarked, the question respecting the existence of a second passage had been wholly unimportant as concerned the movements of the expedition, because we could see, at the time of our entering the present strait, that the only possible track to the other was blocked by solid and continuous ice. The mortifying prospect, however, of a second detention in this strait, added to the consideration of the sudden changes that often take place in the state of the ice, rendered it again necessary to revert to the southern inlet, to which, but a few days before, we had ceased to attach any importance. I therefore determined to despatch three separate parties, to satisfy all doubts in that quarter, as well

at to gain every possible information as to the length of the strait, and the extent of the fixed ice now more immediately before us.

With this view, I requested Captain Lyon to take with him Mr. Griffiths and four men, and proceed overland in a S. b. E. direction, till he should determine, by the difference of latitude, which amounted only to sixteen miles, whether there was or was not a strait leading to the westward, about the parallel of $69^{\circ} 26'$, being nearly that in which the place called by the Esquimaux *Khēmig* had been found by observation to lie. This appeared a simple and effectual method of deciding a question, on which the operations of the Expedition might ultimately depend. In the mean time, Lieutenant Palmer was directed to proceed in a boat to Igloolik, or Neerlo-Nackto, as might be necessary, to ascertain whether the passage leading towards *Khēmig* was yet clear of ice; and, should he find any one of the Esquimaux willing to accompany him to the ships with his canoe, to bring him on board as a pilot. The third party consisted

of Mr. Bushnan, with three men, under the command of Lieutenant Reid, who was instructed to proceed along the continental coast to the westward, to gain as much information as possible respecting the termination of our present strait, the time of his return to the ships being limited to four days, at the expiration of which the other two parties might also be expected to reach us.

By this arrangement, in which the connexion of each expedition with the others, and that of the whole with our main object, will easily be perceived, I hoped to gain such information as would either confirm my determination to continue our efforts in the present station of the ships, or point out, beyond any doubt, the expediency of transferring them to some other quarter. Having gone on board the Hecla to communicate my views and intentions to Captain Lyon, I directed everything to be in readiness for despatching the parties at noon on the following day.

On the morning of the 29th, the wind being light from the eastward, but the

weather much more clear than before, we weighed and stood over to the main-land with the intention of putting our travellers on shore, but found that coast now so lined with the ice which had lately broken adrift, that it was not possible for a boat to approach it. We could not help at this time congratulating ourselves on the fortunate escape we had experienced, in not having already cut any distance into the floe before it separated; for in such a case it would hardly have been possible to escape driving on shore with it. Standing off to the westward, to see what service the late disruption had done us, we found that a considerable floe had separated, exactly in a line between the island off which we lay and a second to the westward of it, subsequently named, at Lieutenant Hoppner's request, in honour of LORD AMHERST. Tacking at the newly-formed margin of the fixed ice, we observed, not only that it was still firmly attached to the shores, but that it was now almost entirely 'hummocky,' and heavier than any we had seen since

making Igloodik; some of the hummocks, as we afterwards found, measuring from eight to ten feet above the surface of the sea.

The different character now assumed by the ice, while it certainly damped our hopes of the passage being cleared this season by the gradual effect of dissolution, confirmed, however, in a very satisfactory manner, the belief of our being in a broad channel communicating with a western sea. As the conclusions we immediately drew from this circumstance may not be so obvious to others, I shall here briefly explain that, from the manner in which the hummocky floes are formed, it is next to impossible that any of these of considerable extent can ever be produced in a mere inlet having a narrow communication with the sea. There is, in fact, no ice to which the denomination of 'sea-ice' may be more strictly and exclusively applied than this; and we, therefore, felt confident that the immense floes which now opposed our progress, must have come from the sea on one side or

the other; while the current, which we had observed to run in an easterly direction in the narrows of this strait, precluded the possibility of such ice having found its way in from that quarter. The only remaining conclusion was, that it must have been set into the strait from the westward towards the close of a summer, and cemented in its present situation by the frost of the succeeding winter.

Standing back towards the eastern island, which I named after my friend and late companion in these regions, CAPTAIN MATTHEW LIDDON of the Royal Navy, and finding the shore quite clear of ice, we dropped our anchors under its lee in twelve fathoms, on a muddy bottom, at the distance of half a mile from the beach. We had scarcely secured the ships, however, when some large masses of heavy drift-ice began to set toward us, and several of these successively coming in contact with the *Fury's* bows and cable, I directed the anchors to be immediately weighed again, rather than run any risk of damage to them; and sailing over

to the fixed ice, made our hawsers fast to it and lay securely for the night.

A great deal of snow having fallen in the last two days, scarcely a dark patch was now to be seen on any part of the land, so that the prospect at daylight on the 30th was as comfortless as can well be imagined for the parties who were just about to find their way among the rocks and precipices. Soon after four A. M., however, when we had ascertained that the drift-ice was no longer lying in their way, they were all despatched in their different directions. For each of the land-parties a depôt of several days' provision and fuel was, in case of accidents, established on the beach; and Lieutenant Palmer took in his boat a supply for nine days.

The fact of our never having seen a stream of tide or current setting through the narrows of the strait in any direction but to the eastward, made it an object of curiosity to ascertain, by observation on the spot during at least two consecutive tides, whether or not a permanent current existed

there. I determined, therefore, on despatching Mr. Crozier on this service; and the absence of so many of our people necessarily limiting our means, his establishment only consisted of the small nine-foot boat and two marines, with which he left us under sail at one P.M., being provisioned for four days. I directed Mr. Crozier to land and pitch his tent somewhere about Cape North-East, and after carefully observing the tides, both on shore and in the offing, for the whole of one day, immediately to return to the ships. The weather improving as the day advanced, a good deal of snow disappeared from the islands, but little or none on the rugged high land of the continent.

On the 31st, the wind blew fresh and cold from the north-west, which caused a quantity of ice to separate from the fixed floe in small pieces during the day, and drift past the ships. Early in the morning, a she-bear and her two cubs were observed floating down on one of these masses, and coming close to the Hecla were all killed.

The female proved remarkably small, two or three men being able to lift her into a boat. A large party of us from each ship passed several hours on shore at Liddon Island, in examining its natural productions.

At half-past nine on the morning of the 1st of September, one of our parties was descried at the appointed rendezvous on shore, which, on our sending a boat to bring them on board, proved to be Captain Lyon and his people. From their early arrival we were in hopes that some decisive information had at length been obtained; and our disappointment may, therefore, be imagined, in finding that, owing to insuperable obstacles on the road, he had not been able to advance above five or six miles to the southward, and that with excessive danger and fatigue, owing to the depth of the snow, and the numerous lakes and precipices.

Being thus, by a combination of untoward circumstances, baffled in an endeavour which had appeared almost certain of success, we had only to await with patience the arrival

of our other parties; scarcely, however, venturing to hope that their information alone could prove of any great interest or importance in furthering our main object. The north-west wind freshening almost to a gale, which made me somewhat apprehensive for Mr. Crozier and his little establishment at the Narrows, I despatched Mr. Ross, at seven this evening, to carry him a fresh supply of provisions and to assist him on his return to the ship. At the same time I directed Mr. Ross to occupy the following day in examining the portion of land forming the northern shore of the Narrows, which we had some reason to suppose insular.

At nine A.M. on the 2d, Lieutenant Reid and his party were descried at their landing-place, and a boat being sent for them, arrived on board at half-past eleven. He reported that the ice seemed to extend from Amherst Island as far as they could see to the westward, presenting one unbroken surface from the north to the south shore of the strait.

Notwithstanding every exertion on the part of our travellers, their labours had not thrown much light on the geography of this part of the coast, nor added any information that could be of practical use in directing the operations of the ships. The important question respecting a second passage leading to the westward still remained as much a matter of mere conjecture as at first ; while the advanced period of the season, and the unpromising appearance of the ice now opposing our progress, rendered it more essential than ever that this point should, if possible, be fully decided. Under this impression it occurred to me, that the desired object might possibly be accomplished by pursuing the route along the head or western shore of Richards' Bay, part of which I had already traversed on my former journey, and found it much less laborious walking than that experienced by Captain Lyon on the higher and more rugged mountains inland. I determined, therefore, to make this attempt, taking with me Mr. Richards and most of my former

companions, and proceeding in a boat as far as the isthmus mentioned on the 17th of August, from whence our journey might at once be advantageously commenced.

This night proved the coldest we had experienced during the present season, and the thermometer stood at 24° when I left the ships at four A.M. on the 3d, having previously directed Captain Lyon to remain as near their present station as might be consistent with safety, and carefully to watch for any alteration that might occur in the western ice. I also requested Captain Lyon to render Mr. Fisher every assistance in his power in the trigonometrical measurement of some high snow-capped hills to the north-west, which, at my desire, he had undertaken. To the land on which these mountains stand, and which the Esquimaux call *Keiyuk-tarruoke*, I gave the name of COCKBURN ISLAND, in honour of VICE ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE COCKBURN, one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, whose warm personal interest in everything relating to Northern Discovery can only be

surpassed by the public zeal with which he has always promoted it.

Being favoured by a strong north-westerly breeze, we reached the narrows at half-past six A.M., and immediately encountered a race or ripple, so heavy and dangerous, that it was only by carrying a press of canvass on the boat that we succeeded in keeping the seas from constantly breaking into her. This rippling appeared to be occasioned by the sudden obstruction which the current meets at the western mouth of the narrows, aided, in the present instance, by the strong breeze that blew directly upon the corner forming the entrance on the south side. On clearing this, which we did after running about one-third of a mile, and then getting into smooth water, though the current was running at least three knots to the eastward, the thoughts of all our party were, by one common impulse, directed towards Mr. Crozier and his little boat, which could not possibly have lived in the sea we had just encountered. It was not, therefore, without the most serious apprehension on

his account that I landed at Cape North-East, where I had directed the observations to be made on the tides; and sending Mr. Richards one way along the shore, proceeded myself along the other to look for him. On firing a musket, after a quarter of an hour's walk, I had the indescribable satisfaction of seeing Mr. Crozier make his appearance from behind a rock, where he was engaged in watching the tide-mark. I found him and his party quite safe and well, though they had encountered no small danger, while attempting to try the velocity of the stream in the narrows, being beset by a quantity of drift-ice, from which they with difficulty escaped to the shore. I found also that Mr. Ross, after towing them in when adrift, and leaving Mr. Crozier his provisions, had proceeded to accomplish his other object, appointing a place to meet them on his return to the ships. In half an hour after we saw the gig crossing to us under sail, and were soon joined by Mr. Ross, who informed me that he had determined the insularity of the northern land.

Having furnished our gentlemen with an additional supply of provisions, in case of their being unavoidably detained by the continuance of the wind, I made sail for the isthmus at ten A.M., where we arrived after an hour's run, and hauling the boat up on the rocks, and depositing the greater part of our stores near her, set off at one P.M. along the shore of Richards' Bay, being equipped with only three days' provision, and as small a weight of clothing as possible. The coast, though not bad for travelling, led us so much more to the westward than I expected, in consequence of its numerous indentations, that, after above five hours' hard walking, we had only made good a W.S.W. course, direct distance six miles. One of our men then complaining of giddiness and other unpleasant symptoms, we halted, and pitched the tents amidst rugged and barren rocks of red granite, dreary and desolate beyond description. A single snow-bunting was literally all we saw of animal life during this afternoon's walk; but the tracks of deer,

all going to the southward, were everywhere seen upon the snow. We obtained on every eminence a distinct view of the ice the whole way down to Neerlo-nakto, in which space not a drop of clear water was discernible; the whole of Richards' Bay was filled with ice as before.

We moved at six P.M. on the 4th, and soon came to a number of lakes from half a mile to two miles in length, occurring in chains of three or four together, round which we had to walk, at the expense of much time and labour. All these terminated towards the sea in inlets. These were still filled with ice of the last winter's formation, except close round the shores, where a narrow space of open water had been formed by the warmth of the land. At half-past six, on gaining a sight of the sea from the top of a hill, we immediately recognised to the eastward the numerous islands of red granite described by Captain Lyon; and now perceived, what had before been surmised, that the south shore of Richards' Bay formed the northern coast of

the inlet, up which his journey with the Esquimaux had been pursued. Our latitude, by account from noon, being now $69^{\circ} 28'$, we felt confident that a short walk directly to the south must bring us to any strait communicating with that inlet, and we therefore pushed on in confident expectation of being near our journey's end. At seven P.M., leaving the men to pitch the tent in a sheltered valley, Mr. Richards and myself ascended the hill that rose beyond it, and on reaching its summit found ourselves overlooking a long and narrow arm of the sea communicating with the inlet before seen to the eastward, and appearing to extend several miles nearly in an east and west direction, or parallel to the table-land before described, from which it is distant three or four miles. The space between the creek and the table-land is quite low, forming a striking contrast with the rugged shore on which we stood, and being covered with abundant vegetation, as well as intersected by numerous ponds of water. The breadth of the little creek at the place at

which we had arrived, being half a mile above its junction with the wider inlet in which the Coxe Islands lie, is about half a mile, and continues nearly the same for three or four miles that we could trace it in a westerly direction. Beyond this it seemed to turn more northerly, and our view being obstructed by the high and rugged hills, of which, on the north side of the creek, the whole tract of country is composed, I determined to pursue our journey along its banks in the morning, to ascertain its further extent, or at least to trace it till it was no longer navigable for ships. That the creek we now overlooked was a part of the same arm of the sea which Captain Lyon had visited, the latitude, the bearings of Igloolik, which was now plainly visible, and the number and appearance of the Coxe Islands, which were too remarkable to be mistaken, all concurred in assuring us ; and it only, therefore, remained for us to determine whether it would furnish a passage for the ships. Having made all the remarks which the lateness of the evening would

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permit, we descended to the tent at dusk, being directed by a cheerful blazing fire of the *andromeda tetragona*, which in its present dry state served as excellent fuel for warming our provisions.

Setting forward at five A.M. on the 5th, along some pleasant valleys covered with grass and other vegetation, and the resort of numerous rein-deer, we walked six or seven miles in a direction parallel to that of the creek; when, finding the latter considerably narrowed, and the numerous low points of its south shore rendering the water too shoal, to all appearance, even for the navigation of a sloop of ten tons, I determined to waste no more time in the further examination of so insignificant a place. There was not in this creek the least perceptible stream of tide or current, which circumstance alone, considering the strength of that which rushes through the Strait of the Fury and Hecla, would have been sufficient perhaps to demonstrate that it had no outlet to the westward. Its whole appearance indeed indicated it to be what it has

since proved, a mere inlet of the sea, similar to those we had before passed, communicating with lakes and streams which annually pour their waters into it, affording excellent *kayak* navigation to the Esquimaux, and supplying them with the salmon with which they had lately provided us. The farther we went to the westward the higher the hills became; and the commanding prospect thus afforded enabled us distinctly to perceive with a glass that, though the ice had become entirely dissolved in the creek, and for half a mile below it, the whole sea beyond this to the eastward, even as far as Igloolik, was covered with one continuous and unbroken floe.

Having now completely satisfied myself, that, as respected both ice and land, there was no navigable passage for ships about this latitude, no time was lost in setting out on our return.

At half-past eight we arrived on board, where I was happy to find that all our parties had returned without accident, except that Lieutenant Palmer had been wounded.

in his hand and temporarily blinded, by a gun accidentally going off, from which however he fortunately suffered no eventual injury.

The result of our late endeavours, necessarily cramped as they had been, was to confirm, in the most satisfactory manner, the conviction, that we were now in the only passage leading to the westward that existed in this neighbourhood. There was, and indeed, still is, reason to believe, from the information of the Esquimaux, that Cockburn Island extends two degrees to the northward, and very considerably to the eastward of this Strait. To have abandoned without further trial, the most promising place, as respects the North-West Passage, that the most sanguine mind could hope to discover, upon the chance of saving time by pursuing a circuitous route of perhaps three or four hundred miles of unknown coast, and of finding a more navigable passage two degrees farther north, I should have considered an unjustifiable departure from the plain tenor of my instructions, if not a direct

abandonment of the cause in which we were engaged. Notwithstanding, therefore, the present unpromising appearance of the ice, I had no alternative left me but patiently to await its disruption, and instantly to avail myself of any alteration that nature might yet effect in our favour.



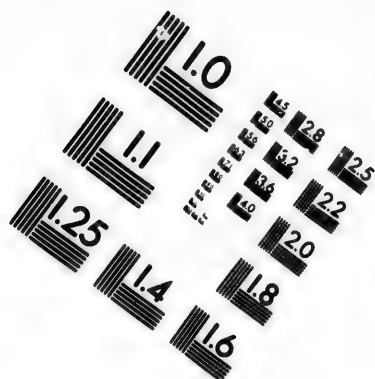
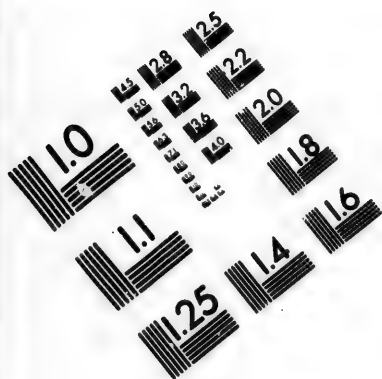
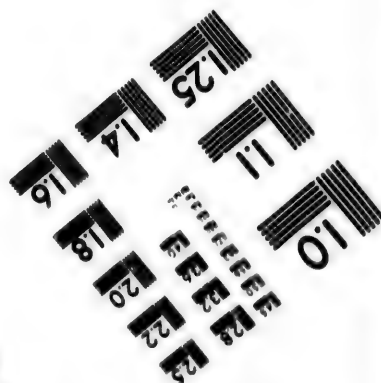
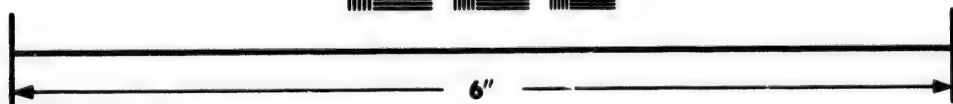
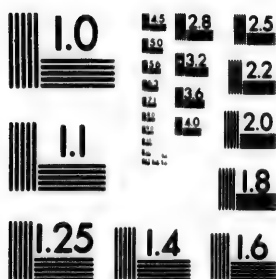


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CHAPTER XII.

A Journey performed along the south shore of Cockburn Island—Confirmation of an outlet to the Polar Sea—Partial disruption of the old ice, and formation of new—Return through the narrows to the eastward—Proceed to examine the coast to the north-eastward—Fury's anchor broken—Stand over to Igloodik to look for winter-quarters—Excursion to the head of Quilliam Creek—Ships forced to the westward by gales of wind—A canal sawed through the ice, and the ships secured in their winter station—Continued visits of the Esquimaux, and arrival of some of the Winter Island tribe—proposed plan of operations in the ensuing spring.

A LIGHT air springing up from the eastward on the morning of the 8th, we took advantage of it to run up to the margin of the fixed ice, which was now perhaps half a mile farther to the westward, in consequence of small pieces being occasionally detached from it, than it had been when we

tacked off it ten days before. We here made fast nearly in a line between Amherst and Liddon Islands, though much nearer to the former, and in fifty-eight fathoms, on a soft muddy bottom.

The pools on the floes were now also so hardly frozen, that skating and sliding were going on upon them the whole day, though but a week before it had been dangerous to venture upon them.

This latter circumstance, together with the fineness of the weather, and the tempting appearance of the shore of Cockburn Island, which seemed better calculated for travelling than any that we had seen, combined to induce me to despatch another party to the westward, with the hope of increasing, by the only means within our reach, our knowledge of the lands and sea in that direction. Lieutenant Reid and Mr. Bushnan were once more selected for that service, to be accompanied by eight men, a large number being preferred, because by this means only is it practicable to accomplish a tolerably long journey, especially on

account of the additional weight of warm clothing which the present advanced state of the season rendered indispensable. Lieutenant Reid was furnished with six days' provisions, and directed to land where most practicable on the northern shore, and thence to pursue his journey to the westward as far as his resources would admit, gaining all possible information that might be useful or interesting. Every arrangement being made, the party was held in readiness to leave the ships at daylight the following morning.

On the 14th, while an easterly breeze continued, the water increased very much in breadth to the westward of the fixed floe to which we were attached; several lanes opening out, and leaving in some places a channel not less than three miles in width. At two P.M., the wind, suddenly shifting to the westward, closed up every open space in the course of a few hours, leaving not a drop of water in sight from the mast-head in that direction. To this, however, we had no objection; for being now certain

that the ice was at liberty to move in the western part of the strait, we felt confident that if once our present narrow barrier were also detached, the ordinary changes of wind and tide would inevitably afford us opportunities of making progress. When a body of ice has once broken from the land, and found some room to move about, the case is seldom a hopeless one; but the kind of *hermetical sealing*, which we had lately witnessed, leaves, while it lasts, no resource but patience and watchfulness. The westerly wind was accompanied by fine snow, which continued during the night, rendering the weather extremely thick, and our situation, consequently, very precarious, should the ice give way during the hours of darkness.

The recent separation of the ice to the westward, while it kept alive our hopes of soon proceeding on our way, made us also at this moment somewhat apprehensive lest Lieutenant Reid and his party might, in their return to the ships, be caught upon it while it was adrift, and escape our obser-

vation during the thick weather, or in the night. It was, therefore, with great satisfaction, that, at four P.M. on the 15th, we discovered our travellers upon the ice. A fresh party being despatched to meet and to relieve them of their knapsacks, Lieutenant Reid arrived safely on board at seven P.M., having, by a quick and most satisfactory journey, ascertained the immediate junction of the Strait of the Fury and Hecla with the Polar Sea. Lieutenant Reid's account, which is here subjoined, was accompanied by an accurate plan of the strait, drawn by Mr. Bushnan, and constructed by a series of triangles, extending considerably to the eastward of the narrows, and thence carried on to Igloolik.

LIEUTENANT REID'S ACCOUNT.

'At daylight on the 10th, the weather being remarkably fine, I left the Fury with my party, and, on our journey towards the land, found the walking extremely good, the late frost having filled up all the holes

and pools upon the ice. After the first four miles, the character of the ice changed from the rough and 'hummocky' kind, to a smooth level floe, and this continued the whole way to the land, except that in its immediate neighbourhood it was much broken up and detached; which occasioned us much difficulty, and some wetting in getting to the beach.

' From one till four P.M., we walked nine miles over excellent ground for travelling, and then obtained sights for the chronometer, giving the longitude $83^{\circ} 58' 30''$; after which we again moved forward, and having advanced six miles in a direction a little to the northward of west, halted, and pitched the tent for the night. The ice in the strait still presented the same unbroken surface as that seen from the ships, except quite close in-shore, where it was detached by the action of the tides. We also observed a few narrow lanes of water here and there, running into the floe, but they extended only a short distance from the land.

' At five A.M. on the 11th, we re-com-

menced our walk to the westward, and at seven came to a ravine, with a rapid run of water which we crossed after a little detention, and stopped to breakfast one mile to the westward of it. Again proceeding at nine o'clock, we continued our walk till noon, when we halted to obtain the meridian altitude, which gave the latitude $70^{\circ} 00' 05''$, and soon after setting forward again pitched our tent for the night at half-past six p.m., our day's journey being estimated at thirteen miles in a W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. direction. We could here perceive that the opposite or main land gradually trended to the southward, leaving a broad entrance into the Western Sea, though covered with even and apparently unbroken ice. The weather being clear, afforded us an extensive prospect to the westward, and we could now perceive that a bluff near the north shore, which had before appeared insular, formed in reality the northern point of the entrance.

' At half-past five a.m. on the 12th, we again set forward, and continuing our walk

till nine o'clock, pitched the tent upon a rising ground, from whence we commanded a good view around us, and being near the entrance of an inlet running up to the north-eastward. The opening of the strait into the Polar Sea was now so decided, that I considered the principal object of my journey accomplished; but being desirous of obtaining observations at this spot, and the weather being cloudy, I determined on remaining a few hours for that purpose.

'The sky being still clouded on the morning of the 13th, we set out on our return to the eastward, from which quarter the wind soon after freshened up, with constant snow and sleet. At one p.m. on the 14th, we reached our landing-place, when we found that a great alteration had taken place in the state of the ice, there being now a considerable lane of water running off in the direction of the ships, while near the shore some pressure appeared to have taken place. On the following day, when the snow ceased falling for a short time, a still greater change was perceptible, there being

in-shore a space of clear water extending three miles from east to west, and more numerous marks than before of recent pressure. Upon the whole, the change in the state of the ice since our outward journey was very striking, and seemed to afford a hope that the passage of the ships might still be favoured by some more extensive movement.

‘ At half-past eleven A.M., the tide being out so far as to favour our getting upon the ice, we set out for the ships, steering by a pocket-compass, as the weather was too thick to allow us to see them. Passing several “lanes” of water, one of them of considerable breadth, and observing several places in which the ice had been thrown up by pressure, we came, at half-past one P.M., to a broad lane, with the ice in motion on the opposite side. As the direction of the ships was still uncertain, we halted here to dine, and obtaining a sight of them soon after, in a clearer interval, again set out. At four, the *Fury* made the signal of having discovered us; and at seven o’clock,

being met by a fresh party, we arrived on board.'

Mr. Bushnan remarked, in the course of this journey, that though in some places, and particularly at the head of Whyte Inlet, the vegetation was remarkably abundant, yet the plants were singularly backward and dwarfish, and flowers rare; which remark was also made by most of our other travellers. The Esquimaux huts, at the head of Whyte Inlet, Mr. Bushnan describes as being, one round, and the other rectangular; the latter, which was the largest, being seven feet in length, and five in breadth. They were made with large slabs of sandstone, and had every appearance of having been winter residences.

The weather continuing very thick, with small snow, and there being now every reason to suppose a final disruption of the fixed ice at hand, I determined to provide against the danger to which, at night, this long-wished-for event would expose the ships, by adopting a plan that had

often before occurred to me, as likely to prove beneficial in an unknown and critical navigation such as this. This was nothing more than the establishment of a temporary light-house on shore during the night, which, in case of our getting adrift, would, together with the soundings, afford us that security which the sluggish traversing of the compasses otherwise rendered extremely doubtful. For this purpose, two steady men, provided with a tent and blankets, were landed on the east point of Amherst Island, at sun-set, to keep up some bright lights during the eight hours of darkness, and to be sent for at daylight in the morning. On the 16th, the north-west wind continued, but no alteration whatever took place in the ice. Small snow was also constantly falling during the day, which once more, and permanently for the winter, as it afterwards proved, covered those parts of the land that the late fine weather had partially cleared. A number of seals were seen upon the ice, and these were all the animals we noticed

about this time. Our light-house was again established at sun-set.

On the 17th, the wind freshened almost to a gale, from the north-west, with thicker and more constant snow than before. The thermometer fell to $16\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ at six A.M., rose no higher than 20° in the course of the day, and got down to 12° at night, so that the young ice began now to form about us in great quantities. The danger of our being seriously hampered, should the ice come adrift in the night, being much increased by this new annoyance, which we well knew to be the certain symptom of approaching winter, it became absolutely necessary to move somewhere out of the way. We therefore cast off, and stood a little within the east point of Amherst Island, where a good berth was found alongside another floe of land-ice, and sheltered by the island from anything coming up the strait from the westward. The Fury was set fast by the young ice in the course of the night, which proved clearer than was

expected, with a faint appearance of the Aurora Borealis in the N.N.W. quarter.

Appearances had now become so much against our making any further progress this season, as to render it a matter of very serious consideration, whether we ought to risk being shut up during the winter, in the middle of the strait, where, from whatever cause it might proceed, the last year's ice was not yet wholly detached from the shores; and where a fresh formation had already commenced, which there was but too much reason to believe would prove a permanent one. Our wintering in the strait involved the certainty of being frozen up for eleven months,—a sickening prospect under any circumstances, but in the present instance, probably, fatal to our best hopes and expectations.

With the conviction of these unpleasant truths reluctantly forced upon my mind, I considered it my duty to assist my own judgment at this crisis by calling for the

opinions of the senior officers of the Expedition. With this view, therefore, I addressed a letter to Captain Lyon and Lieutenants Hoppner and Nias respectively, directing their attention to the principal circumstances of our present situation, and requesting their advice as to the measures most proper to be pursued for the successful prosecution of our enterprise.

The officers agreeing with me in opinion as to the expediency of our not risking a detention in the strait during the winter, I determined, on the grounds before detailed, no longer to postpone our departure, if, indeed, as there was some reason to think, it had not already been delayed too long. I therefore directed a memorandum to be read on board each ship, acquainting the officers and men with my views, as above stated, and also expressing my intention to employ whatever time might yet remain of the present season, in the examination of the coast of Cockburn Island to the northward and eastward. In the event of making little progress in that direction, I proposed

looking out for some situation in the neighbourhood of Igloodik that might afford security to the ships during the winter, and by ensuring an early release in the spring, allow us at least the liberty of choosing to what part of the coast our efforts should then be directed. I gladly availed myself of this opportunity to offer my best thanks, so justly due, to the officers and men under my command, for their zealous and unre-mitted exertions during the two seasons that had passed; and it was scarcely necessary to remind the ships' companies of the necessity of continuing to the last those praise-worthy efforts, on which the ultimate accomplishment of our enterprise might still depend.

The young ice had now formed so thick about the Fury, that it became rather doubtful whether we should get her out without an increase of wind to assist in extricating her, or a decrease of cold. At ten A.M., however, we began to attempt it, but by noon had not moved the ship more than half her own length. As soon as we

had reached the outer point of the floe, in a bay of which we had been lying, we had no longer the means of applying a force from without, and, if alone, should therefore have been helpless, at least for a time. The Hecla, however, being fortunately unencumbered, in consequence of having lain in a less sheltered place, sent her boats with a hawser to the margin of the young ice; and ours being carried to meet it, by men walking upon planks, at considerable risk of going through, she at length succeeded in pulling us out; and getting into clear water, or rather into less tough ice, at three P.M. we shaped a course to the eastward. At seven o'clock, it being too late to run through the narrows, we anchored for the night in ten fathoms, near the east end of Liddon Island, where we lay without disturbance.

In our return to Igloolik we encountered a severe gale, but we luckily discovered it at half-past ten A.M., though such was the difficulty of distinguishing this from Neerlonakto, or either from the main land, on

account of the snow that covered them, that, had it not been for the Esquimaux huts, we should not easily have recognised the place. At noon on the 24th, we arrived off the point where the tents had first been pitched, and were immediately greeted by a number of Esquimaux, who came running down to the beach, shouting and jumping with all their might.

As soon as we had anchored I went on shore, accompanied by several of the officers, to pay the Esquimaux a visit, a crowd of them meeting us as usual on the beach, and greeting us with every demonstration of joy. They seemed disappointed that we had not reached Akkolee, for they always receive with eagerness any intelligence of their distant country-people. Many of them, and Toolemak among the number, frequently repeated the expressions, '*Owyak Na-o!*' (no summer), '*Took-too Na-o!*' (no rein deer), which we considered at the time as some confirmation of our own surmises respecting the badness of the past summer. When we told them we were

come to winter among them, they expressed very great, and, doubtless, very sincere, delight, and even a few *koyennas* (thanks) escaped them on the first communication of this piece of intelligence.

We found these people already established in their winter residences, which consisted principally of the huts before described, but modified in various ways both as to form and materials. The roofs, which were wholly wanting in the summer, were now formed by skins, stretched tight across from side to side. This, however, as we soon afterwards found, was only a preparation for the final winter covering of snow; and, indeed, many of the huts were subsequently lined in the same way within, the skins being attached to the sides and roof by slender threads of whalebone, disposed in large and regular stitches. Before the passages already described, others were now added, from ten to fifteen feet in length, and from four to five feet high, neatly constructed of large flat slabs of ice, cemented together by snow and water.

Some huts also were entirely built of this material, of a rude circular or octangular form, and roofed with skins like the others. The light and transparent effect within these singular habitations, gave one the idea of being in a house of ground-glass, and their newness made them look clean, comfortable, and wholesome. Not so the more substantial bone huts, which, from their extreme closeness and accumulated filth, emitted an almost insupportable stench, to which an abundant supply of raw and half-putrid walrus' flesh in no small degree contributed. The passages to these are so low as to make it necessary to crawl on the hands and knees to enter them; and the floors of the apartments were in some so steep and slippery, that we could with difficulty pass and repass, without the risk of continually falling among the filth with which they were covered. These were the dirtiest, because the most durable, of any Esquimaux habitations we had yet seen; and it may be supposed they did not much improve during the winter. Some bitches

with young were very carefully and conveniently lodged in small square kennels, made of four upright slabs of ice covered with a fifth, and having a small hole as a door in one of the sides. The canoes were also laid upon two slabs of this kind, like tall tomb-stones standing erect; and a quantity of spare slabs lying in different places, gave the ground an appearance somewhat resembling that of a statuary's yard. Large stores of walrus' and seals' flesh, principally the former, were deposited under heaps of stones all about the beach, and, as we afterwards found, in various other parts of the island, which showed that they had made some provision for the winter, though, with their enormous consumption of food, it proved a very inadequate one.

The breeze continuing fresh from the westward, with clear weather, the thermometer fell to 12° on the morning of the 25th. Being desirous of ascertaining, as soon as possible, in what situation it would be expedient to place the ships for the winter, several boats were despatched to sound

along the shore; when I found that the only spot likely to afford shelter, or even any near approach to the land, was within a point called *Oōng-ālōoyāt*, at the entrance of a fine bay, about two miles to the westward of our present anchorage. The young ice now covered the whole surface of the sea like floating honey, the breeze not allowing it to become solid; and, towards night, the wind shifting to the eastward, soon raised the temperature too high for any fresh formation of that kind. I determined, therefore, without loss of time, to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by this change, to run to the westward in a boat, as far as the fixed ice would permit; and, if soon stopped by that obstacle, to cross upon it to the main-land, and endeavour to clear up the mystery respecting *Khemig*, which had cost us so many speculations and conjectures.

Leaving the *Fury* at seven A.M. on the 26th, and being favoured by a fresh easterly breeze we soon cleared the south-west point of Igloolik; and having passed the

little island of *Oogliāghioo*, immediately perceived to the W.N.W. of us a group of islands, so exactly answering the description of Coxe's Group, both in character and situation, as to leave no doubt of our being exactly in Captain Lyon's former track. Being still favoured by the wind, and by the total absence of fixed ice, we reached the islands at eleven A.M., and after sailing a mile or two among them, came at once in sight of the two bluffs, forming the passage pointed out by Toolemak, and then supposed to be called *Khemig*. The land to the north, called by the Esquimaux *Khiadlaghioo*, was now found to be, as we had before conjectured, the southern shore of Richards's Bay. The land on our left, or to the southward, proved an island, five miles and a quarter in length, of the same bold and rugged character as the rest of this numerous group, and by far the largest of them all. To prevent the necessity of reverting to this subject, I may at once add, that two or three months after this, on laying before Ewerat our own chart of the whole

coast, in order to obtain the Esquimaux names, we discovered that the island just mentioned was called *Khemig*, by which name Ormond Island was *also* distinguished; the word expressing, in the Esquimaux language, anything stopping up the mouth of a place or narrowing its entrance, and applied also more familiarly to the cork of a bottle, or a plug of any kind. And thus were reconciled all the apparent inconsistencies respecting this hitherto mysterious and incomprehensible word, which had occasioned us so much perplexity.

After landing to dine upon one of the islands, of which, from first to last, we counted nearly one hundred, we again made sail, and, running between the bluffs, which are half a mile apart, continued our course in rather a wider channel than before, though still among islands. At half-past three we were stopped by a floe of fixed ice, stretching entirely across the passage, and the weather now becoming thick with small snow, we landed and pitched the tent for the night; not, however, till I had re-

cognised on the left hand, or main-land, the remarkable cliff described in my former journey, by which circumstance we were assured of being near the little inlet then discovered.

At daylight on the 27th, we crossed to a small island at the margin of the ice ; and leaving the boat there in charge of the coxswain and two of the crew, Mr. Ross and myself, accompanied by the other two, set out across the ice at seven A.M., to gain the main-land, with the intention of determining the extent of the inlet by walking up its southern bank. After an hour's good travelling, we landed at eight A.M., and had scarcely done so when we found ourselves at the very entrance, being exactly opposite the place from which Mr. Richards and myself had obtained the first view of the inlet. The patch of ice on which we had been walking, and which was about three miles long, proved the only remains of last year's formation ; so forcibly had nature struggled to get rid of this before the commencement of a fresh winter.

We found this land similar to Igloolik in its geological character, being composed of limestone in schistose fragments; but, in some parts, even for a mile or two together, covered with herbage, the most extensive and luxuriant I have ever seen near this latitude. Here and there occurred a little pile, as it were, of the fragments of limestone, lying horizontally, as if arranged by art, and projecting a few feet above the surface of the ground. The sides of several small rising banks presented a similar disposition, but I did not notice any boulders of harder substances resting upon any of them, nor indeed could we find a single specimen of any other mineral than limestone. Walking quickly to the westward along this shore, which afforded excellent travelling, we soon perceived that our business was almost at an end, the inlet terminating a very short distance beyond where I had first traced it, the apparent turn to the northward being only that of a shallow bay. To make quite sure, however, I sent Mr. Ross on with one of the men, to walk

to the head of it, while I with the other turned off to examine the cliff-land to the southward. We found the slope of this to be composed, as was conjectured, of the *debris* falling from the perpendicular ridge above, the whole being limestone, without a single exception that we could discover. The slope making an angle of about 60° with a horizontal line, and being in some parts covered with snow, we with difficulty ascended it; but found the upper ridge wholly impracticable, on account of the snow overhanging the summit. The height of the perpendicular rock, which lies in broad horizontal strata, is from twenty to thirty feet, the whole cliff being about one hundred and eighty above the level of the other ground. At the bottom of the slope lay numerous heavy square blocks of the limestone; and upon these, as well as on some of the smaller fragments, I observed impressions of fossil-shells.

Having finished my examination of this remarkable piece of land, which extends between four and five miles in an east and

west direction, I went to meet Mr. Ross; who reported, that, having walked three or four miles to the westward, he found the inlet terminate about two miles further in that direction. Having thus completed our object, we set out on our return, and reached the boat at three P.M., after a walk of twenty miles. The weather fortunately remaining extremely mild, no young ice was formed to obstruct our way, and we arrived on board at noon the following day, after an examination peculiarly satisfactory, inasmuch as it proved the non-existence of *any* water communication with the Polar Sea, however small and unfit for the navigation of ships, to the southward of the Strait of the Fury and Hecla.

I found from Captain Lyon on my return, that, in consequence of some ice coming in near the ships, (most probably that which had lately been dislodged from Richards's Bay,) he had shifted them round the point into the berths where it was my intention to place them during the winter; where they now lay in from eleven to fourteen fathoms,

at the distance of three cables' lengths from the shore.

It was not till the afternoon of the 30th that the whole was completed, and the *Fury* placed in the best berth for the winter that circumstances would permit. An early release in the spring could here be scarcely expected, nor indeed did the nature of the ice about us, independently of situation, allow us to hope for it; but both these unfavourable circumstances had been brought about by a contingency which no human power or judgment could have obviated, and at which, therefore, it would have been unreasonable as well as useless to repine. We lay here in rather less than five fathoms, on a muddy bottom, at the distance of one cable's length from the eastern shore of the bay.

The whole length of the canal we had sawed through, was four thousand three hundred and forty-three feet; the thickness of the ice, in the level and regular parts, being from twelve to fourteen inches, but in many places, where a separation had

occurred, amounting to several feet. I cannot sufficiently do justice to the cheerful alacrity with which the men continued this laborious work during thirteen days, the thermometer being frequently at zero, and once as low as -9° in that interval. It was satisfactory, moreover, to find, that, in the performance of this, not a single addition had been made to the sick-list of either ship, except by the accident of one man's falling into the canal, and who returned to his duty a day or two afterwards.

While our people were thus employed, the Esquimaux had continued to make daily visits to the ships, driving down on sledges with their wives and children, and thronging on board in great numbers, as well to gratify their curiosity, of which they do not in general possess much, as to pick up whatever trifles we could afford to bestow upon them. These people were at all times ready to assist in any work that was going on, pulling on the ropes, heaving at the windlass, and sawing the ice, sometimes for an hour together. They always

accompanied their exertions by imitating the sailors in their peculiar manner of 'singing out' when hauling, thus, at least, affording the latter constant amusement, if not any very material assistance, during their labour. Among the numerous young people at Igloodik, there were some whose activity, on this and other occasions, particularly struck us. Of these I shall, at present, only mention two;—*Nōōgloo*, an adopted son of Toolemak, and *Kōngölēk*, a brother of 'John Bull.' These two young men, who were from eighteen to twenty years of age, and stood five feet seven inches in height, displayed peculiar *tact* in acquiring our method of heaving at the windlass—an exercise at which *Kōngölēk* became expert after an hour or two's practice. The countenances of both were handsome and prepossessing, and their limbs well-formed and muscular; qualities which, combined with their activity and manliness, rendered them, (to speak like a naturalist,) perhaps, as fine specimens of the human race as almost any country can produce.

Some of our Winter Island friends had now arrived also, being the party who left us there towards the end of the preceding May, and whom we had afterwards overtaken on their journey to the northward. They were certainly all very glad to see us again, and, throwing off the Esquimaux for a time, shook us heartily by the hand, with every demonstration of sincere delight. Ewerat, in his quiet, sensible way, which was always respectable, gave us a circumstantial account of every event of his journey. On his arrival at *Owlitteewek*, near which island we overtook him, he had buried the greater part of his baggage under heaps of stones, the ice no longer being fit for dragging the sledge upon. Here also he was happily eased of a still greater burden, by the death of his idiot boy, who thus escaped the miseries to which a longer life must, among these people, have inevitably exposed him. As for that noisy little fellow, 'John Bull,' (*Kooillitiuk*), he employed almost the whole of his first visit in asking every one, by name, 'How d'ye do,

Mr. so and so?' a question which had obtained him great credit among our people at Winter Island. Being a very important little personage, he also took great pride in pointing out various contrivances on board the ships, and explaining to the other Esquimaux their different uses, to which the latter did not fail to listen with all the attention due to so knowing an oracle.

We had, for several days past, seen no birds near the ships, except one or two ravens; but those who had visited the huts had met with a covey or two of grouse in that neighbourhood, of which a few were killed by the Esquimaux with arrows.

CHAPTER XIII.

Preparations for the winter—Various meteorological phenomena to the close of the year 1822—Sickness among the Esquimaux—Meteorological phenomena to the end of March.

November.—THE measures now adopted for the security of the ships and their stores, for the maintenance of economy, cleanliness, and health, and for the prosecution of the various observations and experiments, being principally the same as those already detailed in the preceding winter's narrative, I shall be readily excused for passing them over in silence.

It is worthy of notice, that each succeeding winter passed in these regions had suggested to us the expediency of leaving our masts, yards, sails, and rigging, more and more in their proper places than before:

and all that we now did was to strike the top-gallant yards and masts, unreeve the running-rigging, to prevent chafing by the wind, lay the small sails across the tops, and hang the spare spars over the side. It may, indeed, be safely affirmed, that in a high latitude, the less the masts and yards are dismantled the better, for the frost does no injury to the gear while it remains unmoved; and none can possibly occur from thawing till the proper season for refitting arrives. The boats were placed on the ice, about fifty yards from the ships, and with their gear stowed in them, closely covered with snow.

The daily visits of the Esquimaux to the ships throughout the winter afforded, both to officers and men, a fund of constant variety and never-failing amusement, which no resources of our own could possibly have furnished. Our people were, however, too well aware of the advantage they derived from the schools, not to be desirous of their re-establishment, which accordingly took place soon after our arrival at Igloo-

lik; and they were glad to continue this as their evening occupation during the six succeeding months.

The year closed with the temperature of -42° , the mean of the month of December having been $27^{\circ} 8'$, which, taken in connexion with that of November, led us to expect a severe winter.

About the middle of the month of December several of the Esquimaux had moved from the huts at Igloolik, some taking up their quarters on the ice at a considerable distance to the north-west, and the rest about a mile outside the summer station of the tents. At the close of the year from fifty to sixty individuals had thus decamped, their object being, like that of other savages on *terra firma*, to increase their means of subsistence by covering more ground; their movements were arranged so quietly that we seldom heard of their intentions till they were gone. At the new stations they lived entirely in huts of snow; and the northerly and easterly winds were considered by them as most fa-

vourable for their fishing, as these served to bring in the loose ice, on which they principally kill the walruses. At the distant station, however, which was farther removed from clear water, their principal dependence was on the *neitiek*, which is taken by watching at the holes made by that animal in the ice. Abreast of Igloolik the clear water was not, with a westerly wind, more than three miles distant from the land, and a dark water-sky continued accurately to define its position and extent.

Towards the latter end of January [1823] the accounts from the huts, as well from the Esquimaux as from our own people, concurred in stating that the number of the sick, as well as the seriousness of their complaints, was rapidly increasing there. We had indeed scarcely heard of the illness of a woman named *Kei-môō-seuk*, who, it seemed, had lately miscarried, when an account arrived of her death. She was one of the two wives of *Ooyarra*, one of Captain Lyon's fellow-travellers in the summer, who buried her in the snow, about two hun-

dred yards from the huts, placing slabs of the same perishable substance over the body, and cementing them by pouring a little water in the interstices. Such an interment was not likely to be a very secure one, and, accordingly, a few days after, the hungry dogs removed the snow, and devoured the body.

Captain Lyon gave me the following account of the death and burial of another poor woman and her child :—

‘ The mother, Poo-too-alook, was about thirty-five years of age, the child about three years—yet not weaned, and a female; there was also another daughter, Shega, about twelve or thirteen years of age, who, as well as her father, was a most attentive nurse. My hopes were but small, as far as concerned the mother; but the child was so patient, that I hoped, from its docility, soon to accustom it to soups and nourishing food, as its only complaint was actual starvation. I screened off a portion of my cabin, and arranged some bedding for them, in the same manner as the Esquimaux do

their own. Warm broth, dry bedding, and a comfortable cabin, did wonders before evening, and our medical men gave me great hopes. As an introduction to a system of cleanliness, and preparatory to washing the sick, who were in a most filthy state, I scrubbed Shega and her father from head to foot, and dressed them in new clothes. During the night I persuaded both mother and child, who were very restless, and constantly moaning, to take a few spoonfuls of soup. On the morning of the 24th the woman appeared considerably improved, and she both spoke and ate a little. As she was covered with so thick a coating of dirt that it could be taken off in scales, I obtained her assent to wash her face and hands a little before noon. The man and his daughter now came to my table to look at some things I had laid out to amuse them; and after a few minutes Shega lifted the curtain to look at her mother, when she again let it fall, and tremblingly told us she was dead.

‘ The husband sighed heavily, the daughter

ter burst into tears, and the poor little infant made the moment more distressing by calling in a plaintive tone on its mother, by whose side it was lying. I determined on burying the woman on shore, and the husband was much pleased at my promising that the body should be drawn on a sledge by men instead of dogs; for, to our horror, Takkeelikkeeta had told me that dogs had eaten part of Keimooseuk, and that when he left the huts with his wife one was devouring the body as he passed it.

‘Takkeelikkeeta now prepared to dress the dead body, and in the first place, stopped his nose with deer’s hair, and put on his gloves, seeming unwilling that his naked hand should come in contact with the corpse. I observed, in this occupation, his care that every article of dress should be as carefully placed as when his wife was living; and having drawn the boots on the wrong legs, he pulled them off again and put them properly. This ceremony finished, the deceased was sewed up in a hammock, and, at the husband’s urgent request, her

face was left uncovered. An officer who was present at the time agreed with me in fancying that the man, from his words and actions, intimated a wish that the living child might be enclosed with its mother. We may have been mistaken, but there is an equal probability that we were right in our conjecture; for, according to Crantz and Egede, the Greenlanders were in the habit of burying their motherless infants, from a persuasion that they must otherwise starve to death, and also from being unable to bear the cries of the little ones while lingering for several days without sustenance; for no woman will give them any share of their milk, which they consider as the exclusive property of their own offspring. My dogs being carefully tied up at the man's request, a party of our people, accompanied by me, drew the body to the shore, where we made a grave, about a foot deep, being unable to get lower on account of the frozen earth. The body was placed on its back, at the husband's request, and he then stepped into the grave and cut all

the stitches of the hammock, although without throwing it open, seeming to imply that the dead should be left unconfined. I laid a woman's knife by the side of the body, and we filled up the grave, over which we also piled a quantity of heavy stones, which no animal could remove. When all was done, and we returned to the ship, the man lingered a few minutes behind us and repeated two or three sentences, as if addressing himself to his departed wife; he then silently followed. We found Shega quite composed, and attending her little sister, between whose eyebrows she had made a spot with soot, which I learned was because, being unweaned, it must certainly die. During the night my little charge called on its mother without intermission, yet the father slept as soundly until morning as if nothing had happened.

' All who saw my patient on the morning of the 25th gave me great hopes; she could swallow easily, and was even strong enough to turn or sit upright without as-

sistance, and in the forenoon slept very soundly. At noon, the sister of the deceased, Ootooguak, with her husband and son, came to visit me. She had first gone to the Fury, and was laughing on deck, and at her own request was taken below, not caring to hurry herself to come to the house of mourning. Even when she came to the Hecla, she was in high spirits, laughing and capering on deck as if nothing had happened; but on being shown to my cabin, where Shega, having heard of her arrival, was sitting crying in readiness, she began with her niece to howl most wofully. I, however, put a stop to this ceremony, for such it certainly was, under the plea of its disturbing the child. The arrival of a pot of smoking walrus' flesh soon brought smiles on all faces but that of Takkeelik-keeta, who refused food and sat sighing deeply; the others ate, chatted, and laughed as if nothing but eating was worth thinking of. Dinner being over, I received thanks for burying the woman in such a way that "neither wolves, dogs, nor foxes could dig

her up and eat her," for all were full of the story of Keimooseuk, and even begged some of our officers to go to Igloolik and shoot the offending dogs. A young woman named Ablik, sister to Ooyarra, was induced, after much entreaty and a very large present of beads, to offer her breast to the sick child, but the poor little creature pushed it angrily away. Another woman was asked to do the same, but although her child was half weaned she flatly refused.

'The aunt of my little one seeming anxious to remain, and Shega being now alone, I invited her to stop the night. In the evening the child took meat and jelly, and sat up to help itself, but it soon after resumed its melancholy cry for its mother. At night my party had retired to sleep, yet I heard loud sighing occasionally, and on lifting the curtain I saw Takkeelikkeeta standing and looking mournfully at his child. I endeavoured to compose him, and he promised to go to bed, but hearing him again sighing in a few minutes, I went

and found the poor infant was dead, and that its father had been some time aware of it. He now told me it had seen its mother the last time it called on her, and that she had beckoned it to Khil-la, (Heaven,) on which it instantly died. He said it was "good" that the child was gone, that no children outlived their mothers, and that the black spot, which Shega had frequently renewed, was quite sufficient to insure the death of the infant.

' My party made a hearty breakfast on the 26th, and I observed they did not scruple to lay the vessel containing the meat on the dead child, which I had wrapped in a blanket; and this unnatural table excited neither disgust nor any other feeling amongst them more than a block of wood could have done. We now tied up all the dogs, as Takkeelikkeeta desired, and took the child about a quarter of a mile astern of the ships, to bury it in the snow; for the father assured me that her mother would cry in her grave if any weight of stones or earth pressed on her infant. She herself, he

feared, had already felt pain from the monument of stones which we had laid upon her. The snow in which we dug the child's grave was not above a foot deep, yet we were not allowed to cut into the ice, or even use any slabs of it in constructing the little tomb. The body, wrapped in a blanket, and having the face uncovered, being placed, the father put the slings by which its deceased mother had carried it, on the right side, and in compliance with the Esquimaux custom of burying toys and presents with their dead, I threw in some beads. A few loose slabs of snow were now placed so as to cover, without touching, the body, and with this very slight sepulchre the father was contented, although a fox could have dug through it in half a minute. We, however, added more snow, and cemented all by pouring about twenty buckets of water, which were brought from the ship, on every part of the mound. I remarked, that before our task was completed, the man turned and walked quietly to the ships.

‘ During the two last days, I obtained

some information with respect to mourning ceremonies, or at all events such as related to the loss of a mother of a family; three days were to be passed by the survivors without their walking out on the ice, performing any kind of work, or even having anything made for them. Washing is out of the question with Esquimaux at most times, but now I was not allowed to perform the necessary ablutions of their hands and faces, however greasy or dirty they might be made by their food; the girl's hair was not to be put in pig-tails, and everything was neglected; Takkeelikkeeta was not to go sealing until the summer. With the exception of an occasional sigh from the man, there were no more signs of grief; our mourners ate, drank, and were merry, and no one would have supposed they ever had wife, mother, or sister. When the three days (and it is singular that such should be the time) were expired, the man was to visit the grave; and having talked with his wife, all duties were to be considered as over. The 28th was our third

day, but a heavy northerly gale and thick drift prevented our visiting the grave. The 29th, although not fine, was more moderate, and I accompanied him at an early hour. Arriving at the grave, he anxiously walked up to it and carefully sought for foot-tracks on the snow, but finding none, repeated to himself, "No wolves, no dogs, no foxes, thank ye, thank ye." He now began a conversation, which he directed entirely to the grave, as if addressing his wife. He called her twice by name, and twice told her how the wind was blowing, looking at the same time in the direction from whence the drift was coming. He next broke forth into a low monotonous chant, and, keeping his eyes fixed on the grave, walked slowly round it in the direction of the sun four or five times, and at each circuit he stopped a few moments at the head. His song was, however, uninterrupted. At the expiration of about eight minutes he stopped, and turning suddenly round to me, exclaimed, "*Tugwā*," (that's enough,) and began walking back to the ship. In the song he

chanted I could frequently distinguish the word *Koyenna*, (thank you,) and it was occasionally coupled with the *Kabloonas*. Two other expressions, both the names of the spirits or familiars of the *Annatko*, *Toolemak*, were used a few times ; but the whole of the other words were perfectly unintelligible to me.

‘ I now sent *Shega* and her father home, well clothed and in good case. The week they had passed on board was sufficient time to have gained them the esteem of every one, for they were the most quiet, inoffensive beings I ever met with ; and to their great credit, they never once begged. The man was remarkable for his extraordinary fondness for treacle, sugar, salt, acids, and spruce-beer, which the others of the tribe could not even smell without disgust ; and he walked about to the different messes in hopes of being treated with these delicacies. *Shega* was a timid, well-behaved girl, and generally remained eating in my cabin, for I am confident of speaking far within bounds when I say she got through

eight pounds of solids per diem. As far as gratitude could be shown by Esquimaux, which is saying "koyenna" on receiving a present, my friends were sensible of the attentions I had shown them.'

March 5th.—The Esquimaux were about this time rather badly off for food, in consequence of the winds having of late been unfavourable for their fishery; but this had only occurred two or three times in the course of the winter, and never so much as to occasion any great distress. It is certain, indeed, that the quantity of meat which they procured between the 1st of October and the 1st of April, was sufficient to have furnished about double the population of working people, who were moderate eaters, and had any idea of providing for a future day; but to individuals who can demolish four or five pounds at a sitting, and at least ten in the course of a day*,

* Lest it should be thought that this account is exaggerated, I may here state that, as a matter of curiosity, we one day tried how much a lad, scarcely

and who never bestow a thought on to-morrow, at least with the view to provide for it by economy, there is scarcely any supply which could secure them from occasional scarcity. It is highly probable that the alternate feasting and fasting to which the gluttony and improvidence of these people so constantly subject them, may have occasioned many of the complaints that proved fatal during the winter; and on

full grown, would, if freely supplied, consume in this way. The under-mentioned articles were weighed before being given to him: he was twenty hours in getting through them, and certainly did not consider the quantity extraordinary.

	lb.	oz.
Sea-horse flesh, hard frozen . . .	4	4
Ditto, boiled . . .	4	4
Bread and bread-dust . . .	1	12

Total of solids . . 10 4

The fluids were in fair proportion, viz.—

Rich gravy-soup . . .	1½ pint.
Raw spirits . . .	3 wine glasses.
Strong grog . . .	1 tumbler.
Water . . .	1 gallon 1 pint.

this account we hardly knew whether to rejoice or not at the general success of their fishery. Certain it is, that on a particular occasion of great plenty, one or two individuals were seen lying in the huts so distended by the quantity of meat they had eaten, that they were unable to move, and were suffering considerable pain arising solely from this cause. Indeed, it is difficult to assign any other probable reason for the lamentable proportion of deaths that took place during our stay at Igloodik, while, during a season of nearly equal severity, and of much greater privation as to food, at Winter Island, not a single death occurred. Notwithstanding their general plenty, there were times in the course of this winter, as well as the last, when our bread-dust was of real service to them, and they were always particularly desirous of obtaining it for their younger children. They distinguished this kind of food by the name of *kānībrōōt*, and biscuit or soft bread by that of *shēgālāk*, the literal meaning of which terms we never could discover, but

supposed them to have some reference to their respective qualities.

Our lengthened acquaintance with the Esquimaux and their language, which a second winter passed among them afforded, gave us an opportunity of occasionally explaining to them in some measure in what direction our country lay, and of giving them some idea of its distance, climate, population, and productions. It was with extreme difficulty that these people had imbibed any correct idea of the superiority of rank possessed by some individuals among us; and when at length they came into this idea, they naturally measured our respective importance by the riches they supposed each to possess. The ships they considered, as a matter of course, to belong to Captain Lyon and myself, and on this account distinguished them by the names of *Lyon-oomiak* and *Paree-oomiak*; but they believed that the boats and other parts of the furniture were the property of various other individuals among us. They were, therefore, not a little surprised to be seri-

ously assured that neither the one nor the other belonged to any of us, but to a much richer and more powerful person, to whom we all paid respect and obedience, and at whose command we had come to visit and enrich the *Innuées*. Ewerat, on account of his steadiness and intelligence, as well as the interest with which he listened to anything relating to *Kabloonas*, was particularly fit to receive information of this nature; and a general chart of the Atlantic Ocean, and of the lands on each side, immediately conveyed to his mind an idea of the distance we had come, and the direction in which our home lay. This and similar information was received by Ewerat and his wife with the most eager astonishment and interest, not merely displayed in the 'hei-ya!' which constitutes the usual extent of Esquimaux admiration, but evidently enlarging their notions respecting the other parts of the world, and creating in them ideas which could never before have entered their minds. By way of trying their inclinations, I asked them if they would consent to leave their

own country, and, taking with them their children, go to live in ours, where they would see no more *Innuées*, and never eat any more seal or walrus. To all this they willingly agreed, and with an earnestness that left no doubt of their sincerity; Togolat adding, in an emphatic manner, '*Shagloo ooagoot nao*,' (we do not tell a falsehood,) an expression of peculiar force among them. The eagerness with which they assented to this proposal made me almost repent my curiosity, and I was glad to get out of the scrape by saying, that the great personage of whom I had spoken would not be pleased at my taking them home without having first obtained his permission. Information of the kind alluded to was subsequently given to many of the other Esquimaux, some of whom could at length pronounce the name of 'King George,' so as to be tolerably intelligible.

The weather was now so pleasant, and the temperature in the sun so comfortable to the feelings when a shelter could be found from the wind, that we set up various

games for the people, such as cricket, football, and quoits, which some of them played for many hours during the day. There is a certain sallowness in the looks of people living much by candlelight, which was always very perceptible in our officers and men during the winter, but which wore off generally with the returning spring. The sun now, indeed, began to be somewhat glaring and oppressive to the eyes on first coming into daylight; and before the end of March some crape was issued, to be worn as veils, a protection of which most persons were already glad to avail themselves. A thermometer, exposed to the sun on the south side of the observatory, on the 14th, indicated $+18^{\circ}$, while another, suspended freely without any shelter from the wind, stood at zero, that in the shade being at -9° at the time.

At the close of the month of March, we were glad to find that its mean temperature, being -19.75° , when taken in conjunction with those of January and February, appeared to constitute a mild winter for this

latitude. There were, besides, some other circumstances, which served to distinguish this winter from any preceding one we had passed in the ice. One of the most remarkable of these was the frequent occurrence of hard, well-defined clouds, a feature we had hitherto considered as almost unknown in the winter sky of the polar regions. It is not improbable, that these may have, in part, owed their origin to a large extent of sea keeping open to the south-eastward throughout the winter, though they not only occurred with the wind from that quarter, but also with the colder weather, usually accompanying north-westerly breezes. About the time of the sun's reappearance, and for a week or two after it, these clouds were not more a subject of admiration to us on account of their novelty, than from the glowing richness of the tints with which they were adorned. It is, indeed, scarcely possible for nature, in any climate, to produce a sky exhibiting greater splendour and richness of colouring than we at times experienced in the course of

this spring. The edges of the clouds, near the sun, often presented a fiery or burning appearance, while the opposite side of the heavens was distinguished by a deep purple about the horizon, gradually softening upwards into a warm, yet delicate rose-colour, of inconceivable beauty. These phenomena have always impressed us the most forcibly about the time of the sun's permanent setting, and that of his re-appearance, especially the latter, and have invariably furnished a particular subject of conversation to us at those periods; but I do not know whether this is to be attributed so much to the colouring of the sky exactly at the times alluded to, as to our habit of setting on every enjoyment a value proportioned to its scarceness and novelty. Besides the colouring of the clouds just mentioned, I also observed, five or six times in the course of the spring, those more rare and delicate tints, to which allusion has already been made in this Narrative, and twice in that of the preceding voyage. This peculiarity, in which I now observed no difference from

those of the same kind before described, would probably have been oftener seen, but for the glare of the sun upon the eyes in viewing an object so near it. Perhaps it has also been seen in other climates; here it is, I believe, most frequent in the spring, and I have never noticed it after the summer temperature has commenced.

Shortly after the sun's re-appearance, it not unfrequently happened about noon, that a part of the low shore to the southward of the ships appeared, by the effect of refraction, to be raised and separated, forming a long narrow streak of a dark colour, like a cloud, suspended for a few minutes above the land, in a position nearly horizontal.

In this case the land, or other distant objects, may be seen over them, though there is near them always a mistiness, to which they perhaps owe their origin. Although, however, the winter atmosphere of these regions is seldom free from numberless minute particles of snow, which are abundantly deposited upon anything left in the open

air. yet it was not observable, except in some cases of snow-drift, that parhelia were more frequent or distinct when this deposit was the greatest, than when the atmosphere was comparatively clear, though, in the latter case, they are always to appearance most distant. Parhelia occur most frequently, and exhibit the greatest intensity of light, at low altitudes of the sun. This is often particularly observable in the short days, when these phenomena assume a very brilliant appearance soon after sunrise, decrease in splendour towards noon, and resume their brightness as the sun descends towards the horizon; continuing, however, distinctly visible the whole time, and being sometimes accompanied by a more or less perfect halo, undergoing corresponding variations.

Another peculiarity observed in this winter was the rare occurrence of the Aurora Borealis, and the extraordinary poorness of its display whenever it did make its appearance. It was almost invariably seen to the southward, between an E.S.E. and a

W.S.W. bearing, generally low, the stationary patches of it having a tendency to form an irregular arch, and not unfrequently with coruscations shooting towards the zenith. When more diffused it still kept, in general, on the southern side of the zenith; but never exhibited any of those rapid and complicated movements observed in the course of the preceding winter, nor, indeed, any feature that renders it necessary to attempt a particular description. The electrometer was frequently tried by Mr. Fisher, at times when the state of the atmosphere appeared the most favourable, but always without any sensible effect being produced on the gold leaf.

The difference in the temperature of the day and night began to be sensible as early as the first week in March, and the daily range of the thermometer increased considerably from that time. The increase in the average temperature of the atmosphere, however, is extremely slow in these regions, long after the sun has attained a considerable meridian altitude; but this is in some

degree compensated by the inconceivable rapidity with which the days seem to lengthen when once the sun has re-appeared. There is, indeed, no change which continues to excite so much surprise as that from almost constant darkness to constant day; and this is, of course, the more sudden and striking, in proportion to the height of the latitude. Even in this comparatively low parallel, the change seemed sufficiently remarkable; for soon after the middle of March, only ten weeks after the sun's re-appearance above the horizon, a bright twilight appeared at midnight in the northern heavens.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

London: W. CLOWES, Stamford Street.

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